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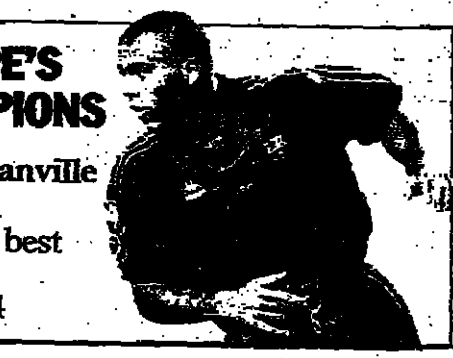
THE TIMES 35p

No. 65,759 THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

EUROPE'S CHAMPIONS



Brian Glanville on which league is best

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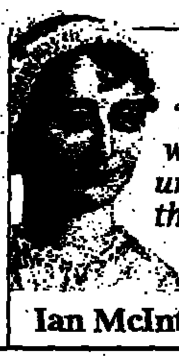


BEST FOR BOOKS

'One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other'
JANE AUSTEN

'When I'm good I'm very good, but when I'm bad I'm better'
MAE WEST

Ian McIntyre on collections of wit and wisdom, P36,37

12 WINS FOR CHRISTMAS

THREE NIGHTS AT CLARIDGES

TOKEN, PAGE 40
PREMIUM LINE ENTRY

BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED

- ☐ Executive 75K
- ☐ Manager 55K
- ☐ Consultant 45K
- ☐ Graduate 30K

APPOINTMENTS, 24 PAGES
SECTION 3

Willetts quits over standards report

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

THE sleaze row that has dogged John Major for three years claimed another victim yesterday as David Willetts, the Paymaster General, resigned over his part in the cash-for-questions affair.

Mr Willetts, regarded as one of the brightest talents in the Government, "did the honourable thing" within minutes of the publication of a damning all-party report that went close to accusing him of lying in his evidence to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. Soon after receiving the report and digesting the harshness of its attack on his behaviour, Mr Willetts decided to resign. He went from the Cabinet Office where he was based to 10 Downing Street to tell the Prime Minister in person.

Last night, Michael Bates, MP for Langbaurgh, was appointed Paymaster General in succession to Mr Willetts.

Mr Major made no attempt to dissuade Mr Willetts, accepting with the minister that any attempt to ride out calls from Labour for him to go would do the Government, already reeling from the latest outbreak of open warfare over Europe, more harm than good. Mr Willetts and other ministers also felt that the system of MPs regulating their own behaviour, due to be looked at by the Nolan committee in the next parliament, could have been imperilled further had he stayed on in the face of such criticism. Although it is a big setback to a promising career, by going without a fuss Mr Willetts probably has ensured that he will return to the front bench, in government or opposition, after a short interval on the back benches.

But senior Conservatives were furious at the action of the committee in forcing the resignation for what they regarded as no more than a mistake. One said: "It is the equivalent of 20 years' hard labour for parking on a double yellow line. It is outrageous." A particular target of their fury was Quentin Davies, the Conservative MP for Stamford and Spalding, who sided with Labour members during the drafting of the report to ensure that its language was so tough.

Mr Willetts, 40, was, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, accused of "dissembling" in telling the Standards and Privileges Committee of his conduct two years ago when, as a junior whip, he had talked to Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, chairman of the Members' Interests Committee, about its inquiry into the Neil Hamilton cash-for-questions allegations.

It found that the conversation itself, in which Mr Willetts was felt to have tried to influence Sir Geoffrey about how the inquiry should be handled, was improper. But it reserved its strongest censure for the way Mr Willetts had tried to explain his earlier actions both in a memorandum to the committee and in a torrid evidence session in which he was subjected to fierce questioning by Mr Davies, who accused him of prevarication.

The committee said that Mr Willetts had "dissembled" in his account, substantially aggravating his original offence. The word, carrying its connotations of insincerity and concealing or disguising the truth, was chosen carefully for maximum impact.

But the most damaging sentence followed. The committee had decided that in future "it will be our normal practice to take evidence on oath". Described by a Tory friend as a "knife in the back", the words appeared to be trying to leave the implication that Mr Willetts had lied, without precisely saying what the supposed lie was. Mr Willetts was deeply upset by the sentence, which he regarded as an attack on

Continued on page 2, col 5

Bruce Anderson, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Budget fails to turn tide for Tories

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

CONSERVATIVE support has fallen back again after the Budget and two weeks of renewed internal party turmoil over Europe.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* puts the Tories back at their August level of 30 per cent, three points down on a month ago, with Labour on 51 per cent, up one point, and the Liberal Democrats on 13 per cent, up one.

Kenneth Clarke's last Budget before the general election has made things worse, not better, for his party with the poll showing a big drop in economic optimism and a majority of people concluding that the November 26 package was bad for them personally.

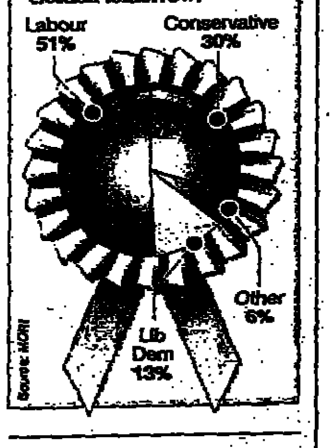
The Government's satisfaction rating has dropped four points to 18 per cent, and Mr Major's personal rating has fallen by six points to 30 per cent.

The survey was taken last weekend at the height of the Tory troubles over the single currency, which culminated in the Prime Minister going on television to try to restore calm to his party.

But one of the results of the concentration on European rows has been a rise in the importance attached to Europe by the public. It has moved up to joint second, behind the health service, in the list of issues people think are of most importance.

MORI interviewed 1,872 adults at 165 sampling points between December 6-9.

Q How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?



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B and C ALEXANDER

Reindeer facing death in Russia's remote Chukostsky territory: their traditional winter grazing grounds have been covered by a sheet of ice after heavy rains last month

Thousands of reindeer could starve to death

From Richard Beeston
in Moscow

HERDSMEN in one of Russia's most remote regions were yesterday fighting against the elements to save thousands of reindeer from starving to death because of icy conditions.

According to reports from Russia's northeastern Chukostsky territory, as many as 30,000 reindeer are at risk because heavy rains a month ago were followed by freezing temperatures and blizzards that have covered their traditional winter grazing areas in a thick sheet of ice.

The local authorities have attempted to break the icy layer over the pastures by towing concrete beams behind a fleet of tractors and other heavy vehicles. The herdsmen have also tried to drive their animals to less affected areas by laying down food trails.

However, rescue efforts have been hampered by appalling weather conditions, a lack of fuel and the sheer remoteness of the region. The Chukotsky territory is located on the Bering Sea opposite Alaska. It has no roads, little infrastructure and the indigenous reindeer herders traditionally rely on their own means to survive the cruel winters on the Arctic tundra.

Igor Cheston, the Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature in Russia, said that the crisis was affecting the tame reindeer herds as well as those living in the wild, which both feed on an Arctic moss that usually sustains them until the spring thaw.

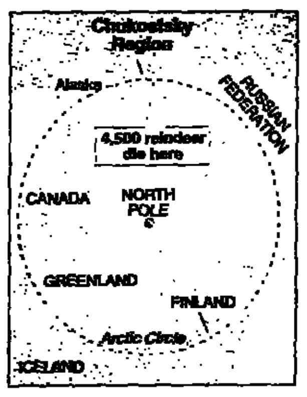
"They are trying to move the herds inland to more protected places, but it is a difficult job," he said. "In some areas entire herds have been wiped out to the last animal. Often the reindeer break through the ice with their hooves and then find themselves stuck fast and unable to dig themselves out. They die where they stand."

He said that WWF was planning to launch a scheme next year to help indigenous populuations in Siberia to develop a more sustainable model of reindeer farming, but admitted there was little his charity could do in the current crisis to help out.

A desperate bulletin received by Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations yesterday reported that more than 1,000 reindeer had died in the past 24 hours. Since the famine was first reported over the weekend more than 4,500 animals have perished. Local authorities predict that the famine could decimate the total reindeer population of 240,000, which in turn will destroy a large part of the local economy.

☐ **Washington:** *Animal rights campaigners in Washington said last night they were investigating the situation in the Chukotsky peninsula and may lobby the United States Government to take action to save the reindeer* (Tom Rhodes writes).

Bill Eichbaum, vice-president of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, said airdrops of hay would probably be the best immediate solution to assist the starving mammals and he thought that Alaska's relative proximity to the region might make such a mission feasible.



FBI told of Iran link to bombing

The FBI has received information from the Saudi Arabian Government which claims that the bombing of a United States military complex in Dhahran last June was carried out by Saudi Shia Muslim extremists sponsored by Iran.

Details of confessions extracted from at least 40 Shias were passed to the FBI's director last month .... Page 15

Shell invests £6bn on new oilfields

Shell Oil is planning to invest up to $10 billion (£6 billion) over the next four years in deep-water oil production in the Gulf of Mexico.

The US subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch oil company has more than eight undisclosed projects in preparation. Shell is the largest leaseholder in gulf waters deeper than 15,000 ft .... Page 25

Morrissey loses royalties fight

Morrissey, leader of the 1980s pop group The Smiths, was described by a High Court judge yesterday as "devious, truculent and unreliable" as the singer lost his legal battle over the group's earnings.

Mike Joyce, the group's drummer, won his claim that he was entitled to 25 per cent of the record royalties, estimated at £1 million .... Page 3

Drivers 'should pay bill for crash victims'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MOTORISTS should pay for the hospital treatment of those people they injure in accidents, the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, said yesterday.

Under radical proposals that would send motorists' insurance premiums rocketing, the National Health Service could recoup treatment costs from the person the courts decide was to blame.

The Commission estimates that the plan, to be studied by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, would enable the NHS to recover nearly £100 million a year. The move would shift the cost of treating road accident victims from the taxpayer to motorists.

The Law Commission says a "strong case" can be made for enabling the NHS to claw back its costs in all personal injury cases when someone has been held by the courts to be negligent. That would include any accident — at work, for example, or involving a drug manufacturer or a public authority.

Professor Andrew Burrows, of the Law Commission, said: "We think it is particularly important to raise for public debate the question as to whether the NHS should be given a right to recoup, from those who negligently cause injury, the cost of free health care provided to victims."

At present, he added, it can be argued that the person to blame is being let off because the bill is picked up by the state. "Not only does the NHS lose, the wrongdoer gains."

Private medical insurers are able to recoup treatment costs from defendants' insurers and, the Law Commission says, it can be argued that the NHS should benefit, too.

There are precedents: the Department of Social Security can "claw back" benefits from accident victims who win compensation, and the NHS and other health providers can recoup a small, limited percentage of treatment costs in road accident cases.

The Commission suggests that the NHS should have a claim against the defendant where the victim has sued for negligence and won damages.

The cost of treating all accident victims is £1 billion a year, but only 12 per cent are successful in bringing negligence claims. This means the NHS stands to recoup some £120 million, which the Commission estimates would come down to £90 million to £100 million after costs.

Insurance companies last night warned the Law Commission not to single out motorists. Rebecca Hadley, for AA Insurance, said: "Why make motorists the only people in the population who have to pay?"

☐ *Damages for Personal Injury: Medical, Nursing and Other Expenses — the Cost of Care* (Consultation Paper 144, HMSO; £13).

Willie Rushton dies after heart surgery

By Alan Hamilton

WILLIE RUSHTON, the comedian and satirist, died yesterday after heart bypass surgery in London's Cromwell Hospital. Mr Rushton, who was 59, had been only briefly ill and his death shocked his friends.

Married with three sons, he was one of the founders in 1961 of the magazine *Private Eye* and was a regular performer on *That Was The Week That Was*, the BBC satirical television show, in the 1960s. As recently as last weekend he appeared on *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, BBC Radio 4's comedy quiz.

Ian Hislop, the editor of *Private Eye*, said: "He was a brilliant cartoonist and produced some of the best and funniest drawings of people in public life in recent decades. I feel very sad to learn of his death; it was very sudden."

Rushton: "a bit of a Falstaffian figure"

Richard Ingrams, the magazine's former editor, who attended Shrewsbury School with Mr Rushton together with Paul Foot and Christopher Booker, both fellow-instigators of the 1960s satirical movement, said: "I think he was the most talented of my contemporaries by far. He had a brilliant, spontaneous wit. He was a brilliant improviser and a bit of a Falstaffian figure."

John Wells, a fellow-comedian, said: "The great thing about Willie was that he was universally loved ... He was very funny to everyone he met. There was no division between private and public character."

The death rate during coronary arterial surgery in the best hospitals is below 1 per cent, but these odds would have been fractionally worse in Mr Rushton's case because he had had diabetes for several years.

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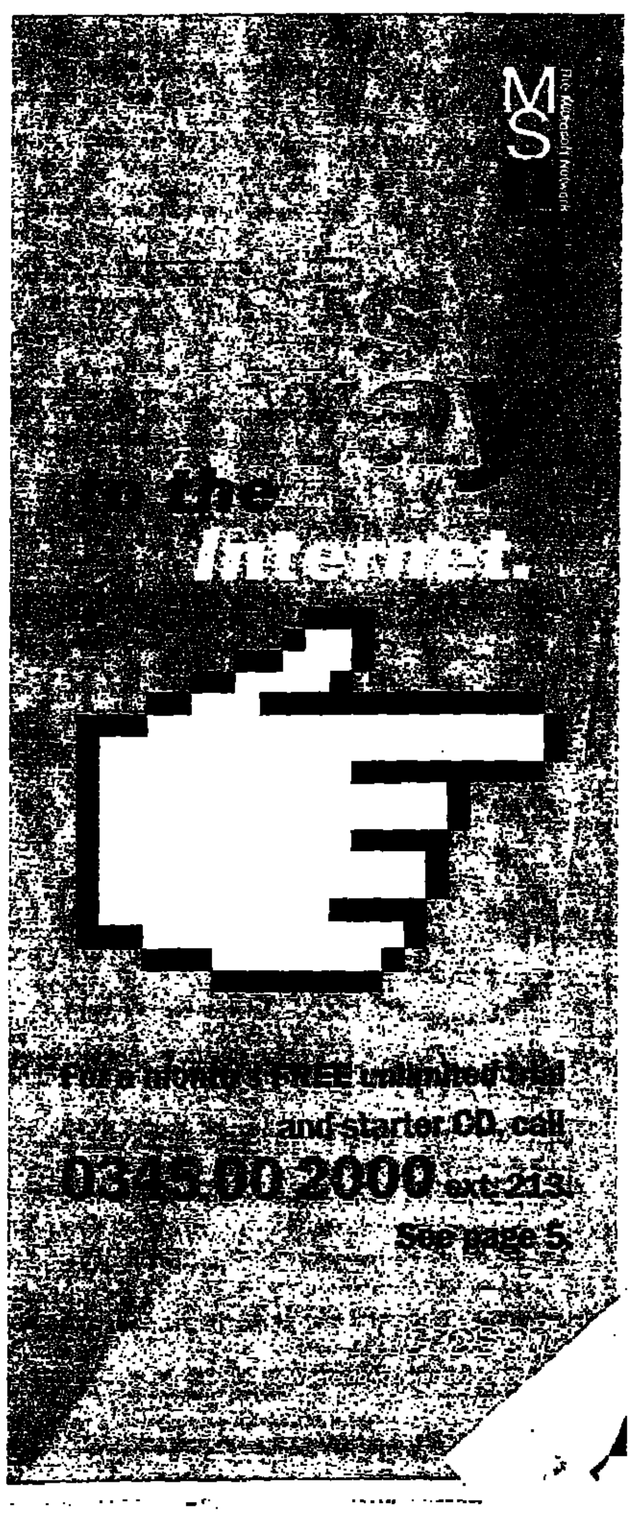
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Who needs Opposition with support like this?

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

If the Opposition had wanted to point the moral of yesterday's European debate at Westminster, they could have done so without uttering a sound. One by one, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs could have slipped silently from the Chamber. They would have left an exasperated Chancellor in ill-tempered debate with his own party.

Labour had simply become irrelevant. In a sense, we, the public, were irrelevant. This was an embarrassing family row. Here was a big debate on a big topic, with views both ways held vehemently, and many personal resentments. Here was one side questioning the good faith of the other. And all within the Tory party! It was an Alice-through-the-looking-glass world: a Chancellor thumping the table — while jeers came, not from opposite him, but from behind. There were even cheers for Clarke from Labour.

When the Opposition cheered they outnumbered the scattering of Tories determined to support him. The right noises were coming from *the wrong places. It* was as though the Chamber had been wired up wrongly, or the wrong soundtrack attached to a videotape. To a commentator accustomed to view the Commons as a place *where* party explains everything, the disjunction was unsettling.

The occasion was not a dramatic one, and it would be unfair to say that the Tory party sent its Chancellor packing. At the start there were some noisy Tory jeers for some of Mr Clarke's views, but the dissidents soon *settled down* to assailing his speech, from behind, with low, grumbling interruptions and poisonous glances.

What angered Euro-sceptics was *not his recitation* of the practical pros and cons of a single European currency, but his refusal to see it as a constitutional question. Your core Euro-sceptic believes (even if he will not admit it) that a single currency removes sovereignty and should be resisted even if it would work. Clarke believes it should be *resisted only if it would not work.*

The PM believes that until we know whether it would work, we can defer the constitutional question. But yesterday Clarke answered it. He was asked by the Liberal Democrats' Malcolm Bruce, whether, *if* the practical difficulties were ironed out, he would join a single currency? Yes, said Clarke "I would probably be in favour of joining."

John Major does not give this answer. That Mr Clarke does may seem a nuance, but it is an important one. It enrages the Euro-sceptics.

Their practical objections to the single currency are rather like the objections of one who opposes a *trip to the zoo on the grounds that it* might rain but in his heart simply prefers to stay at home. He is secretly nervous that someone will quote a favourable weather report. The sceptics are secretly nervous that the practical objections to EMU might be answered. In this case, Clarke leaves them with no shelter; Major leaves a chance of shelter. I noticed the Prime Minister look stonily down as Clarke kicked it nonchalantly aside.

Outside the Chamber, Tory MPs were all talking about the Willetts resignation. Words *like* "decent" and "honourable" filled the air. Poppycock! Mr Willetts has simply done the best thing for his career. In the thick of Charles Stewart *Parnell's difficulties, arising from* his adulterous affair with Kitty O'Shea, Cecil Rhodes cabled him from South Africa:

"*Resign* stop *marry* stop *return.*"

The same advice, *mutatis mutandis*, goes to Mr Willetts, probably the only junior whip to know what *mutatis mutandis* means.

Minister sealed his downfall with wrong evidence

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ADRIAN BROOKS

David Willetts and his wife Sarah outside their home yesterday, after his resignation as Paymaster-General

DAVID WILLETTS's political fate was sealed by three damning sentences of a report that cast serious doubt on his honesty. MPs were astonished at the severity and bluntness of the report's conclusions, which directly accused the minister of having given inaccurate evidence to the all-party Standards and Privileges Committee, the Commons' disciplinary body.

The 11 senior MPs on the committee concluded that "we cannot accept much of [Mr Willetts's] memorandum, nor much of his oral evidence, as being accurate". They continued: "We are very concerned that any member should dissemble in his account to the committee *and believe that* this response by Mr Willetts has substantially aggravated the original offence."

The final conclusion, while not specifically referring to Mr Willetts, was seen as the most damaging and effectively killed off his chance of survival *as a minister:* the committee announced that it would change more than 200 years of parliamentary tradition by making it "our normal practice to take evidence on oath".

The nine-page report chronicles a string of contradictions and inconsistencies in the evidence given to MPs by Mr Willetts, MP for Havant, and *Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith,* a senior Tory MP. The inquiry centred initially on a brief conversation between the two and a note hurriedly written by Mr Willetts shortly afterwards, which was leaked.

In October 1994, Mr Willetts, then a newly appointed whip, met Sir Geoffrey, chairman of the now defunct Members' Interests Select Committee, which was about to investigate cash-for-questions allegations against Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister. The two men discussed the possibility of postponing an inquiry into Mr Hamilton because of a pending libel action. Mr Willetts's short note afterwards for fellow whips said: "He (Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith) could: (i) argue now *sub judice* and get committee to set it aside, or (ii) investigate it as quickly as possible, exploiting good Tory majority at present. We were inclined to go for (i) but he wants our advice."

Mr Willetts suggested later that his note was not an accurate version of the conversation and that it had "an artificial structure" that wrongly gave the impression that he had influenced Sir Geoffrey. The committee concludes that the note "was a broadly accurate account of the conversation", but it suggests *that* Mr Willetts "as a new whip, was keen to impress the Chief Whip" by suggesting possible options.

The MPs concede that there is no evidence that Mr Willetts "set out to influence Sir Geoffrey or that he succeeded in doing so. At the most, he imposed a structure on Sir Geoffrey's thoughts and reinforced *his judgment, and put* himself in a position where he could have influenced him subsequently had the opportunity arisen."

The report criticises Sir Geoffrey for taking part in the discussion and Mr Willetts for discussing the work of the Members' Interests Committee with its chairman. "We *regard the conversation as* having gone beyond what properly should have taken place."

The MPs draw attention to Sir Geoffrey's denial, in evidence, that he had sought advice from Mr Willetts. "This is a direct contradiction of the original note [written by Mr Willetts]. We are prepared to believe that Sir Geoffrey's denial was sincere but conclude that his oral evidence was somewhat confused and that he could not provide a *clear account of the* conversation."

The committee, which broke with tradition by questioning the two MPs in public, acknowledges that the Commons' disciplinary system is on trial. There is mounting pressure for an outside body to be appointed to handle complaints about MPs. The report says: *"The system of self*-regulation which Parliament has established cannot function if Members are not frank and open about mistakes that they may have made."

Bruce Anderson, page 20
Leading article, page 21

WILLETTS'S WORD

To **dissemble** falls in the bottom half of the league table of verbs of dishonesty. It means to conceal deliberately and by pretence, ie, to "dissimulate", which with "resemble" influenced the unusual formation of the word. Two of the best illustrations of its meaning come from the 1662 Prayer Book, which is a thesaurus of precise English as well as sound morality. After the introductory sentences of Morning Prayer, the minister says: "Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to *acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and* wickedness; and that we should not **dissemble** nor cloke them before the face of God our heavenly Father . . ." Psalm 12 runs: "They do but flatter with their lips, and **dissemble** in their double heart." There may be worse forms of dishonesty than **dissembling**, which can be no more than being "economical with the truth". But it is still a kind of deliberate dishonesty. When accused of it, the honourable man has to resign.

Minister quits over report

Continued from page 1

his integrity, and it clearly was central to his decision. The *committee also said:* "The system of self-regulation which Parliament has established cannot function if members are not open about mistakes that they may have made in the past." It added: "We cannot accept much of the memorandum submitted to the committee by Mr Willetts, nor much of his oral evidence, *as being accurate.*"

Mr Willetts in his resignation letter to the Prime Minister said that he was very sorry that his integrity had been called into question. He said that he had told the truth when he had appeared before the committee and that he stood by his evidence. Mr Willetts added: "However, in the light of their report, I *believe the only honourable* course is to resign."

He said that he would continue to support the Government from the back benches. Mr Major, in reply, said that he much regretted his decision to resign, but accepted his reasons for doing so. "It is consistent with the dignified way that you have conducted *yourself that you feel it right to* stand down from the Government in the light of this report," he said.

Mr Willetts originally had faced accusations that he had tried to interfere in the committee's investigation into Mr Hamilton's role in the cash-for-questions affair. The "Willetts memorandum" appeared to suggest that he and *Sir Geoffrey had discussed* ways in which the Government could secure a favourable outcome to the "investigation into Mr Hamilton. The note, written in October 1994, suggested that the committee could get the inquiry set aside by arguing that the matter was sub judice. Or it could investigate the matter as *quickly as possible, "exploit*ing the good Tory majority" on the committee.

Mr Willetts has strongly denied any attempt to put pressure on the committee.

Bruce Anderson, page 20
Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eleventh death in E. coli epidemic

The death toll in Scotland's *E. coli 0157* epidemic rose to 11 yesterday and a second butcher's shop remained closed, as a London-based firm of loss adjusters offered a "no win, no fee" deal to sue for compensation. The loss adjusters MPC & Company were to meet victims of the food poisoning outbreak last night, to set up a "strong and unified" group to take legal action. But the company's arrival was criticised as "insensitive and unnecessary" by the Law Society of Scotland. There are currently five Scottish legal firms involved.

Quarantine call

The RSPCA called yesterday for an end to quarantine controls on dogs and cats from the *European Union* and a number of other countries. Its ruling council said it was satisfied that controls were unnecessary for pets from countries recognised as rabies-free.

Irish jobs boost

The computer company IBM is expected to confirm later this week that it will create about 2,500 new jobs by establishing a £100 million centre in Dublin. It would raise the number of Irish jobs created by foreign investment *this year to 19,000.*

Highland grant

A £16 million grant towards a high-tech university in the *Highlands and Islands*, linking existing institutions with distance learning, was announced by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary. The Millennium Commission has committed £33.5 million.

Orange master

Robert Saulters, grand master of the Belfast County Lodge, has been appointed master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, responsible for many of the parades in Ulster over the summer. Mr Saulters *succeeds the Rev Martin Smyth*, who held the post for 24 years.

IRA man talks

An IRA terrorist-turned-police *informer told the Conservative* backbench Northern Ireland Committee in the Commons that a new ceasefire by republicans would be tactical. Sean O'Callaghan was released last week after eight years of a life sentence for murder.

Jet crash inquiry

An inquiry began yesterday into why two Danish pilots ejected from their jet fighter as it approached Swaffham, Norfolk, on a training flight last week. The empty F16, which *had an engine fire, passed the* town at 1,000ft and crashed half a mile from a school.

PC trial halted

The Old Bailey trial of PC Patrick Hodgson, 49, who denies murdering a suspected car thief, was halted for legal reasons and the jury discharged. He will face a retrial. David Ewin, 38, was shot and fatally wounded in Barnes, southwest London, last year.

Fiennes gives up

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, 53, has abandoned his attempt to become the first man to walk solo 1,800 miles across Antarctica. He has suffered a recurrence of kidney stones. His two distress flares were spotted by his back up team.

Thomas Stuttaford, page 18

Christmas tree plan divides Dunblane

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

DUNBLANE appeared deeply divided yesterday for the first time since the March shootings, in a dispute over parents' wishes to erect a Christmas tree in the cemetery where most of Thomas Hamilton's young victims are buried.

An announcement on spending plans for the bulk of the £7.3 million donated by well-wishers after the massacre, first reported in *The Times on Monday, failed to divert attention* from the argument which began when Stirling Council refused parents permission to place a decorated tree near the children's graves.

Councillors held an emergency *meeting to reconsider their position* yesterday after calls flooded in from around the country supporting the parents. The meeting decided to hold a telephone poll of Dunblane residents on the issue. *Families of the victims,* backed by Dunblane Community Council, accused councillors of making a "private request into a public circus".

However, Stirling Council said it had received a number of objections to the plan from other people with relatives buried in the cemetery — who thought the tree was "insensitive" — and alternative sites for a tree outside the cemetery had been rejected by the families.

Councillor Ann Dickson, representing Dunblane East, said: "This is the first time anyone has said No to the families, and I am very sorry that they have made so much of it. I am afraid to *say that the people of Dunblane think* enough is enough. They are saying: 'We have supported you for nine long months, but in this we cannot support you. We cannot have Dunblane lost in a time warp of March 13, we have got to get on with our lives'."

Johnnie MacLarne, 61, grandfather of Megan Turner, who was murdered in the school shootings, accused the council of deepening divisions in the community. He said: "The families wanted the tree at the front of the semicircle of graves for their children, for their kids to see it. I know we're talking a kind of nonsense really, but that was their feeling."

The dispute overshadowed the announcement of spending plans by trustees of the two main funds set up after the killings: The Dunblane Fund, which stands at £4.5 million, and the *Stirling Observer Dunblane Help* Fund, which stands at £1.7 million. In a joint statement, the two trusts confirmed that the bulk of the £6.2 million will go in compensation payments to families of the dead and injured via The Dunblane Fund.

For the past two months, a specially appointed fund agent has been assessing each family's individual needs. Some interim payments have already been made. All details are confidential. The trustees said that a swimming pool or community centre was likely to be the project chosen to benefit the wider community, largely paid through the *Stirling Observer's* charitable trust.

Work has already started on a joint project to create a landscaped memorial garden in the cemetery. An estimated £1.1 million is held in a third fund run by the Dunblane Primary *School Board and Parent Teacher* Association, to benefit the primary school.

Costs dispute threatens Millennium display

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE FUTURE of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich looked uncertain last night as assurances were demanded on the project's spiralling budget. An all-day meeting of the Millennium Commmission broke up without a decision on whether £200 *million of* lottery funds would be put towards the £700 million cost of building the planned dome.

The commissioners, who include the Deputy Prime *Minister, Michael Heseltine,* and the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, will hold an emergency meeting today. It is expected that they will give the money but only if certain conditions are met by Millennium Central, the organisers of the exhibition.

The Government wants to reassure private investors, who must put up £150 million, *by making lottery cash* available as a contingency fund. But Labour is anxious that no more public money is spent and says significant problems remain. Without a *promise that a Labour* government would underwrite it, the scheme would fail.

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'Truculent' Morrissey loses legal fight over £1m royalties

Joyce: has new band

By Russell Jenkins

MORRISSEY, leader of the 1980s pop group The Smiths, was described by a High Court judge yesterday as "devious, truculent and unreliable" as the singer lost his legal battle over the group's earnings.

Mike Joyce, the group's drummer, won his claim that he was entitled to 25 per cent of the four-man band's profits for record royalties and performances. It was estimated yesterday that he will receive about £1 million.

Morrissey and Johnny Marr, The Smiths' guitarist, were contesting a claim by Joyce that profits from the group's recordings had been unfairly split, with 40 per cent each going to the two frontline stars and the rest shared between him and Andy Rourke, the bass player.

The judgment means that Morrissey and Marr will have to pay their former drummer from their own pockets. They are also liable for legal costs of around £250,000 for the seven-day hearing.

Morrissey was not in court to hear the judgment go against him. Marr, flanked by his lawyers, left looking shocked, pale and refusing to comment.

Joyce, 33, who is hoping for chart success with his new, two-man band *Wah Now*, said he brought the case because he was concerned about the future of his daughters Fay, eight, and Olivia, three. He said: "I am delighted but, at the moment, I just feel a bit shocked. I want to go home and see my wife and my children whom I have missed over the past couple of weeks. I did not bring this action for the money. No lifestyles are going to change here."

After a seven-day hearing, Judge Weeks said he preferred the evidence of Joyce and Rourke, who had dropped out of the action after accepting £83,000. Describing the "credibility" of the four partners, the judge said Joyce and Rourke impressed him as "straightforward and honest", although without great intellectual ability.

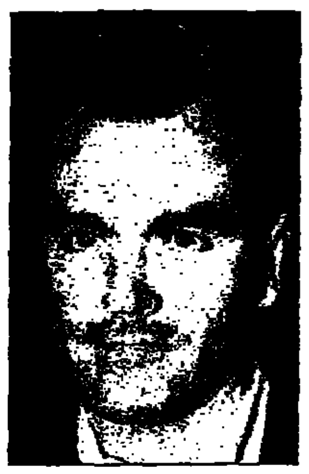
"Morrissey was more complicated and didn't find giving evidence easy or a happy experience. He was devious, truculent and unreliable when his own interests were at stake." The judge said Marr was "a more engaging personality" and "a more reasonable character" and the most intelligent of the four "but seemed to me to be willing to embroider his evidence to a point where he became less credible".

The judge said there was no evidence of a 40-40, 10-10 agreement for splitting the profits and there never was an assumption by Joyce and Rourke that that was what they would get.

The Smiths, formed in 1982, achieved considerable success before disbanding in 1987. Morrissey, now pursuing a solo career, was the dominant character who kept a tight grip on the purse strings. He treated the lesser known members of the band merely as session musicians, it was claimed. After the group split up Joyce discovered, for the first time, that the profits had not been shared equally. He began a legal action to recover royalties for the recordings and profits from the concerts by the group, paid to a company called Smithdom Ltd.

The action was originally brought by both Joyce and Rourke but the bass player, who had fought a battle with heroin addiction, was "desperately short of money" and settled in 1989 for £83,000 and 10 per cent of future record royalties, giving up all further claims.

After the hearing, Morrissey said in a statement: "I am disappointed and surprised at the judge's decision. I will be considering the terms of the judgment with my solicitors to assess possible grounds for appeal."



Morrissey: not in court

Archaeologist saves face of Roman who fell by the wayside

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

THE carved head of a soldier who fought in the Roman conquest of Britain has been found and will be reunited with the rest of his tombstone in a Colchester museum.

Longinus was a cavalryman who fought with Emperor Claudius and died at the age of 40 in about AD 48. The tombstone, carved in deep relief, shows him on his horse, towering over a naked and supplicant Briton.

The stone, erected by the side of the main Roman road between London and Colchester, was found in 1928, in excellent repair but missing the face of Longinus. The assumption was that it had been toppled deliberately soon after it was erected, perhaps at the time of Boadicea's revolt in AD 60, and that the face had been hacked off.

This colourful story now seems less likely, as the face has been found in a new dig at the very site where the tombstone was originally discovered. Peter Berridge, of the Colchester Castle Museum, said: "The head was face down in the ground, in a position where it would have been if it had broken from the statue accidentally.

"It is incredible that it was not found in 1928 when the tombstone was excavated, but from the position where it lay it looked like an ordinary stone."

The find was made by James Fawn, a member of Colchester Archaeological Group, when redevelopment of the site made a fresh excavation possible. Mr Fawn, 67, found an oval piece of stone and was amazed when he turned it over. "There was this face staring at me," he said. "It was a marvellous moment."

He rang the museum to say that he might have found the face of Longinus. Staff rushed to the site, drove him back to the museum and cheered with delight as he placed it against the stone, where it fitted perfectly. "It was my most exciting find since I became interested in archaeology in 1962," Mr Fawn, a retired ICI manager, said.

Mr Berridge said that the museum planned to reunite the face with the rest of the stone after studying how best to attach it. "It fits like a glove," he said.

"If it had been deliberately defaced by Boadicea we would not think about putting it back because the missing head would have been part of history. But because it now appears that it was lost accidentally we can put it back without fearing that we are interfering in the past."

An inscription on the stone shows that Longinus came from Sofia, in what is now Bulgaria, and served with the Roman legions as an auxiliary cavalryman with a sergeant's rank. He served for 15 years and, when he died, most likely of natural causes, he left instructions for his heirs to raise the stone beside the main road. It also features the winged figure of a sphinx, a symbol of death in the ancient world, sitting between two lions and two snakes. "When the carving was first made it was a symbol of the might of the Roman Empire crushing barbarians," Mr Berridge said. "Then it became a symbol of Boadicea's revolt, when it was thought to have been deliberately defaced. Now it looks like the history books will have to be rewritten again."

The missing head of the cavalryman Longinus

JOHN McLELLAN

Peter Berridge with tombstone and head. They were probably parted accidentally, not by Boadicea's rebels

Rape case soldiers in court

By Adrian Lee

FOUR Army officers and two officer cadets were remanded in custody yesterday, jointly charged with raping a woman at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, Wiltshire, in May.

The alleged victim, a 27-year-old civilian, is a student at another college. The six accused, all members of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, are: Captain Philip Bates, 25, of Bordon, Hampshire; Captain Ian Barlow, 28, of Wattisham, Suffolk; Lieutenant Darren Bartlett, 23, of Arborfield, Reading; Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 23, of Bordon; Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, of Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne; and Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire.

Five had previously been remanded in custody and will face court again at Wantage, Oxfordshire, in a month. Captain Barlow, who was on bail, was remanded for a week.

Vicar and curate resign over their adulterous affair

By Bill Frost

A VICAR and his curate have resigned after admitting an adulterous relationship. A Church of England spokesman said last night that an affair between married ministers was unprecedented.

The Rev Andrew Rayment, who has two children, and the Rev Helen Quinn, who has three, said they could no longer continue to hold office in the same parish "with integrity". The pair, who worked at St Margaret's Church in Catton, Norwich, plan to marry once divorced from their present partners.

Mrs Quinn, 50, said yesterday: "We have known each other for over two years and we have realised that our relationship has become personal, that we love one another and our hope is, in due course, to marry.

"As we are both already married we believe that this intention is incompatible with continuing in ordained ministry."

The Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, said last night that he had accepted the resignations with regret. "As priests and as public representatives of Christ's Church, they recognised that they cannot with integrity continue to hold office in the Church. I am sad that their relationship has meant the end of the ministries of two gifted priests."

Mr Rayment left his parish after breaking the news of the relationship to his congregation from the pulpit. Mrs Quinn, who was last night at her family home in Taverham, Norwich, declined to comment further.

A parishioner, who refused to be named, described himself as a friend to both Mr Rayment and his estranged wife, Jenny. "They've left. I can't tell you where they've gone because I don't know — nobody does," he said.

The Rev Terry Patient, who has taken over until a new vicar is appointed, said that the congregation had been "much saddened by events". He added: "Of course we are missing them, but there has been a lot of support in the parish. I have not noticed any drop in the congregation and things are carrying on as they were."

Mr Rayment was regarded as a pioneering cleric in the parish. He increased the size of the congregation and was particularly enthusiastic about encouraging families to worship together.

Gunman kills head of failed companies

By Emma Wilkins

A BUSINESSMAN with a string of failed companies was shot dead in the driveway of his farmhouse moments after getting out of his sports car. Richard Watson, 55, some of whose former companies are in liquidation and administration, was killed as he closed the gates to his £400,000 home in East Grinstead.

Mr Watson, who was married with four adult children, was shot in the chest from close range and died instantly. His daughter Amanda, 23, heard the shot and ran outside to her father while his wife, Linda, dialled 999.

Mr Watson had earlier been the victim of an attack with a stun gun, according to a neighbour. He had been working as a computer consultant with Trafalgar Computers Ltd in East Grinstead. Staff refused to comment.

Detective Superintendent Paul Westwood appealed for witnesses to the killing, at 7.45pm on Tuesday. He said: "Mr Watson was confronted by his killer and shot once in the chest."

A man in his 20s was arrested on Tuesday night but was released on police bail after questioning.

Censor admits helplessness in face of film violence

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

THE box-office success of macho Hollywood heroes such as Sylvester Stallone, Steven Seagal and Arnold Schwarzenegger is to blame for the high levels of cinema violence, Britain's chief film censor said yesterday.

James Ferman, director of the British Board of Film Classification, said in a letter to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that world cinema now faced a problem unique in its history. In the past five years, the most successful film heroes... had been the most violent.

"Teenagers cannot be blamed for seeking out such films. We live in a market economy in which millions of pounds are invested in films and millions more in promoting them. Teenagers are targeted by the advertisers. They would have to be superhuman to resist," he said.

He warned that it was "the indulgence in violent emotions and aggressive acts" in films that excited the viewer, promoted aggressiion and taught criminal techniques.

In the past three years the BBFC had made more than 900 cuts to 369 violent videos, amounting to more than six hours. Such cuts, however, could not change the culture of the film if it was dedicated to violence.

"The solution is beyond the reach of British law. The real solution is for Hollywood to wake up with a conscience. But I have my doubts. There's too much money at stake," Mr Ferman said. BBFC research showed that in 1996 27 per cent of people thought videos were a major factor contributing to violence but films containing the most gratuitous violence generated the fewest complaints because their audiences regarded them as "sheer entertainment".

Mr Ferman also announced new measures to try to curb film violence. They included tightening the controls on violent imagery in film trailers, posters and promotions, and encouraging the industry to stop promoting violent films to children, particularly on Saturday morning television, and to condemn the cynical marketing of violence.

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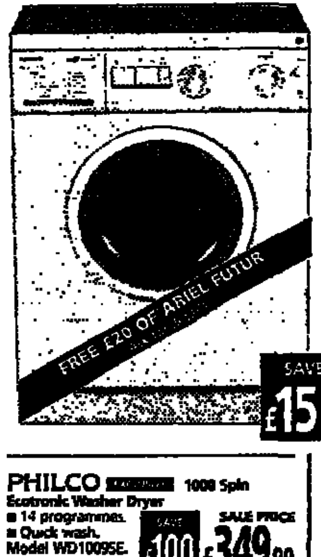

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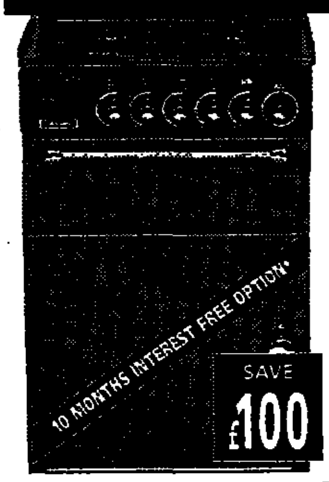

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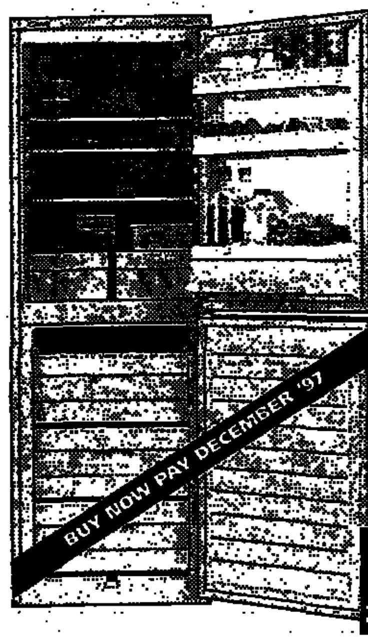

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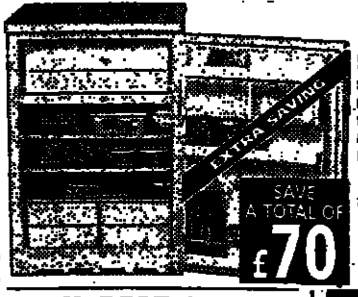

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Humming a hymn 'can calm road rage'

Drivers urged to take the highway to heaven

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MOTORING'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

- **Begin with a prayer**
- **If you start late, arrive late**
- **Alcohol is for the radiator, not the operator**
- **If entry into the flow of traffic is facilitated by the courtesy of another driver, wave in appreciation**
- **If you have inadvertently endangered the safe passage of another vehicle, wave as an apology**
- **Make it easy for aggressive opportunity snatchers to get ahead of you — far ahead**
- **So drive that the sudden appearance of a patrol car is a pleasant sight**
- **Give plenty of space to cars marked with dents**
- **Never accelerate, and decelerate if advisable, when another car wishes to enter your lane**
- **End every trip with a prayer of thanksgiving**

CHRISTIAN drivers tempted by aggression on the roads have been given their own highway code and special hymns to help them turn the other cheek as ruder motorists pass by on the wrong side.

The Christian Road Safety Association yesterday disclosed its ten commandments for peace on the roads. Drivers are urged to begin with a prayer, remember that alcohol goes in the radiator not the driver and to end every safe journey with thanksgiving.

A collection of hymns and prayers gives harassed drivers a chance to keep calm by humming: "Whatever else we do each day, we strive to keep ahead. We try to turn the other cheek, stop when we see the light is red."

The hymns have been collected from road-safety events and services in all denominations through the 60 years of the association's life, and one 37-year-old hymn shows that "road rage" is not a new expression. It pleads: "Dear Lord we ask your blessing on all who use the road. Remove road rage distressing to lives both young and old. We know that you will hear us, and in your love and grace, give kind unselfish feelings, to this fast-moving race."

The association's secretary, Eric Thorn, who has built up the collection as well as writing his own hymns, said: "We are particularly concerned about road rage, which seems to be an ever increasing problem, but it was referred to in a verse written years ago. Hopefully, people who find themselves in a confrontation on the road will think of one of our verses and it will help them calm down. If just one person stops and thinks about their actions before resorting to violence, then we have achieved something."

The association's *Ten Rules of the Road* are to be published soon in its 1997 members' handbook, and hymns to cultivate a more spiritual approach to driving are in *Road Safety Services and Hymns*, out this week.

Drivers can sing "Oh, may we heed the Highway Code, and witness to those on the road", to the tune associated more often with *For Those In Peril On The Sea*. The tune from *The Church's One Foundation* has been used for the lyric: "Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on all who use the road."

A prayer asks that "my vehicle be an instrument of your purpose, bringing happiness to all who travel with me, and leaving nobody weeping at my passing". Other verses seek deliverance from "domineering driving" and "the infection of speed". Prayers offer support for teenagers wanting to pass their test and there are words of solace for families who have lost loved ones in traffic accidents.

The Christian Road Safety Association was founded by the late Barbara Mackie, who was appointed MBE for her services to road safety. It aims to bring about a more Christian atmosphere on the roads. Tony Martlew, the chairman, said he was particularly concerned about the recent incidents of "road rage", and added: "This has taken up our prayer time and concern for the past couple of years.

"So much of everybody's time is taken up with travel, I am sure the Lord is concerned with this aspect of our lives. If someone is tailgating you, it is a horrible feeling. You are driving along minding your own business and someone is so close you can't even see your own bumper. It is easy to get het up and in a rage, and to panic. What we have to think is road safety first. Keep your cool, move over as soon as it is safe, and let these idiots go by."

The Christian Road Safety Assocation, based in Crawley, West Sussex, survives by donations and the new £4.50 hymnbook is the first publication that it has charged for. It has 4,000 members worldwide and, in keeping with its Christian principles, membership is entirely free.

MPs' chauffeurs poised to strike

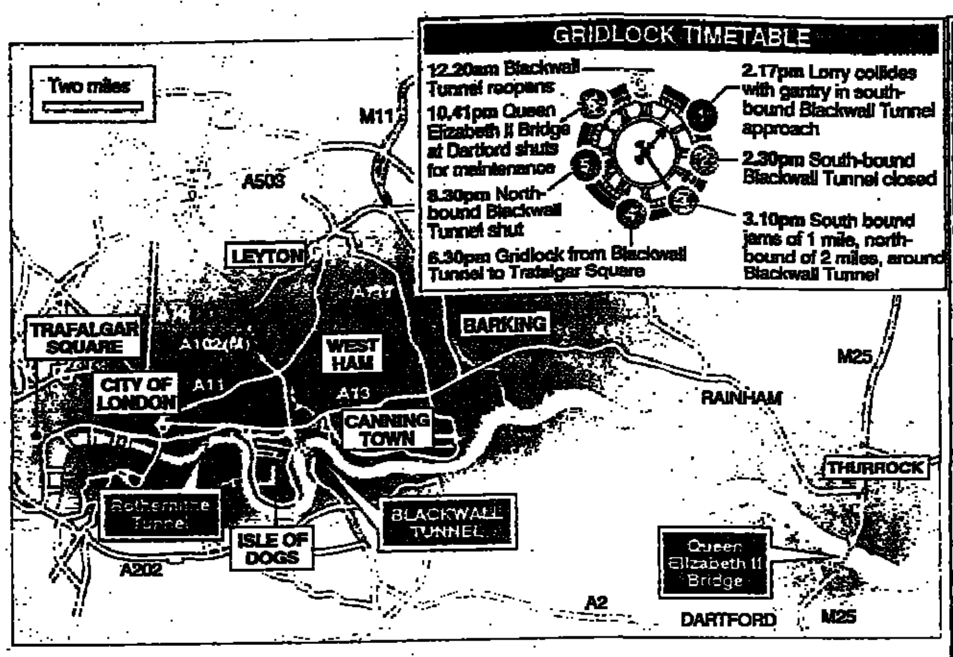
BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH talks were held in Whitehall last night to try to prevent a strike by government chauffeurs, which may force some ministers and senior civil servants to make their own way to work.

Secret contingency arrangements were being made, but some of the 110 MPs and officials who usually have a chauffeur may have to travel by taxi, hire car or public transport next week.

Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, ordered fresh discussions yesterday with the drivers' union, the Transport and General Workers'. The chauffeurs voted for industrial action after plans to cut their £9.30 daily meal allowance were disclosed. The negotiators were also discussing a pay rise of about 3.3 per cent. The drivers earn £4.66 an hour plus allowances for unsocial hours. A union spokesman said: "We are looking at indefinite action to achieve a proper settlement."

The strike, due to start Tuesday, would not affect the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Defence Secretary, who are considered high-security risks and have armoured cars. A spokesman for Mr Freeman said: "We are hopeful of resolving this dispute. We hope that ministers will not have to walk to work."



GRIDLOCK TIMETABLE

2.17pm Lorry collides with gantry in southbound Blackwall Tunnel approach

2.30pm South-bound Blackwall Tunnel closed

3.10pm South bound jams of 1 mile, northbound of 2 miles, around Blackwall Tunnel

6.30pm Gridlock from Blackwall Tunnel to Trafalgar Square

8.30pm Northbound Blackwall Tunnel shut

10.41pm Queen Elizabeth II Bridge at Dartford shuts for maintenance

12.20am Blackwall Tunnel reopens

Eight-hour gridlock a taste of things to come, motorists told

THE eight-hour traffic jam that brought the City of London and the East End to a standstill on Tuesday was a taste of things to come, motoring organisations said yesterday. Drivers will regularly have to endure gridlock because of the rising number of vehicles on the capital's already overcrowded roads (Jonathan Prynn writes).

Thousands of motorists were stranded after a lorry smashed into a gantry at the southbound entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel. The tunnel was closed for ten hours. Stationary traffic was reported on every road within a 3½-mile radius. Shortly before 11pm the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge at Dartford was closed for maintenance. Edmund King, head of campaigns at the RAC, said that the incident had given a foretaste of future congestion. "London has fewer river crossings than any city of its size and disruption on a bridge or in a tunnel has a disproportionate effect."

The driver of the lorry, who was not injured, had passed a series of height warnings on the tunnel approach.

Leading article, page 21

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
Your three-week guide to television, radio and satellite for the holiday, in the **Directory**

EASY DOES IT
James Bone meets Tony Bennett, in the **Magazine**

PLUS
CAR 96 and **WEEKEND MONEY**

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It was a cold miserable day and where they played on the bank few people passed by.

One that did, however, attracted the children's attention.

Watching him throw a bag into the river and hurry on his way, their curiosity was aroused.

The bag bore the words 'Happy Christmas' and inside it the children found a small cardboard box.

Inside the box, they found a three month old silver tabby kitten.

It was freezing, but still just alive.

The RSPCA was called. But moments later the kitten was dead.

For the children the experience was devastating. For the RSPCA inspector it was all too typical.

As the season of goodwill comes round again, the RSPCA's 300 uniformed inspectors face one of their busiest times of the year.

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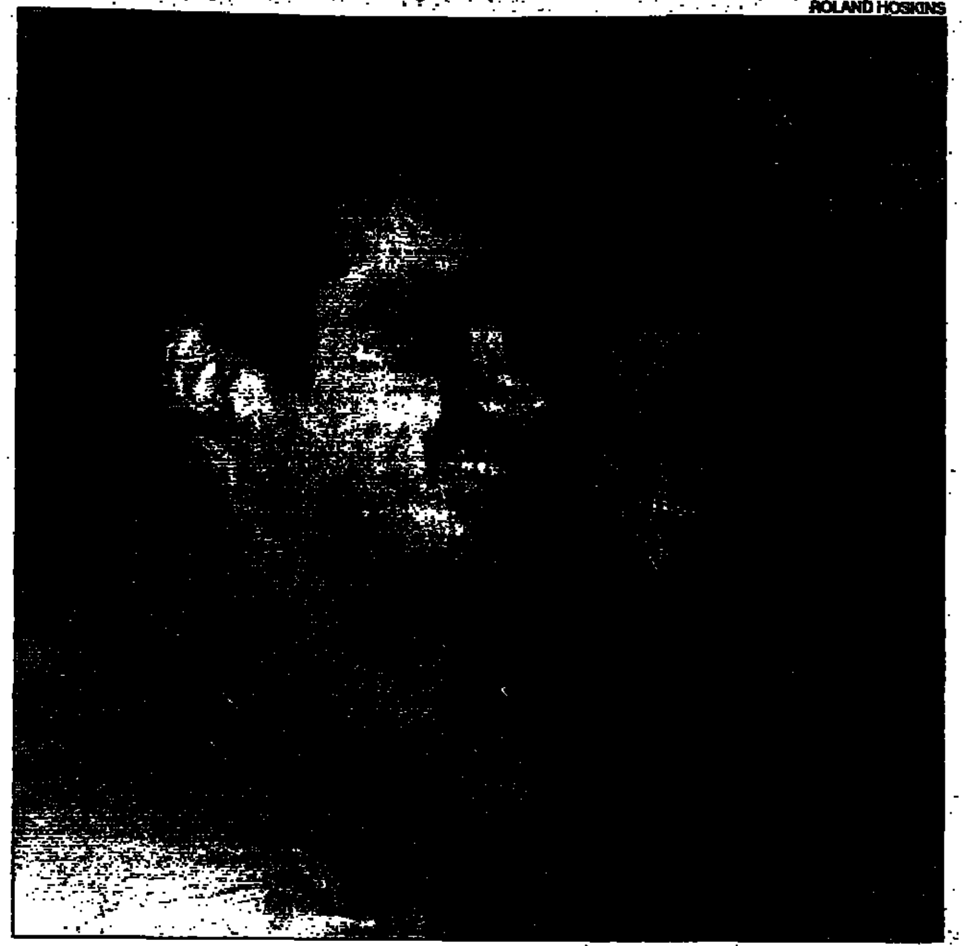
'Middle-class' bombers convicted of embassy attack

ROLAND HOSKINS



Mahmoud Abu Wardeh and his sister leaving the Old Bailey after his acquittal

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

TWO Palestinians educated into British middle-class life were convicted at the Old Bailey yesterday of plotting the bombing of the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity two years ago. They will be sentenced next week.

Samar Alami, 30, from South Kensington, west London, and Jawad Botmeh, 27, an electrical exporter from Bloomsbury, central London, put to use scientific skills they had learnt as postgraduate students.

Two car bombs exploded at the embassy in Kensington Gardens and the charity in Finchley, north London, in July 1994, causing millions of pounds worth of damage. Nobody was injured.

Botmeh and Alami, who believed that the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, was misguided in his attempts to come to an accommodation with Israel, struck the day after Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and King Hussein of Jordan had signed the Washington Declaration, apparently paving the way for peace between them.

Responsibility for the blasts was claimed by a hitherto unknown terrorist group called the Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group Palestine in letters posted to two Arabic newspapers and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's offices in London.

Alami used her training as a chemical engineer at Imperial College, London, to make the explosive for the bombs. A member of one of the four most prestigious families in the Palestinian world, she was born in Beirut, where her father headed an Arab bank.

Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar, the former Cabinet minister, stood surety for £10,000 of her bail, which included £500,000 from her family, and gave evidence on her behalf. Pauline Cutting, a British doctor known for her work in the Palestinian camps, also gave evidence for her. The Labour MPs Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn and Harry Cohen lent their names to a defence group for Alami and Botmeh.

Botmeh was born in Bittar, near Bethlehem, the son of a former bank official. He put the bombs together and has an MSc in electrical engineering from King's College, London.

His English wife and friends in the public gallery burst into tears as he was convicted yesterday at the end of the nine-week trial.

A third man, Mahmoud Abu Wardeh, 26, was found not guilty of conspiring to cause explosions and possessing an explosive substance and firearms. Earlier in the trial Nadia Zekra, 49, who was accused of planting the bomb, was found not guilty on the orders of Mr Justice Garland after he said the evidence against her was suspect.

Jawad Botmeh and Samar Alami were said to have learnt bomb-making skills at university in London

Detectives described Alami and Botweh as salon revolutionaries who crossed over from protest to violence. They used terrorist texts from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Che Guevara but no links to other terrorist groups were found.

Alami developed an explosive called triacetone triperoxide from freely available chemicals. The formula she used for the explosive, which is very powerful and leaves no trace, was set out in a textbook by a former head of Yasser Arafat's bodyguard and later found by police.

Detectives also recovered three handguns and two more bombs which were ready to be used. They are still searching for a middle-aged woman who planted the Embassy bomb, and other members of the gang. Detectives never discovered where half a tonne of chemicals bought by Botmeh for making explosive was stored, where they were mixed, or where the cars for the bombs were garaged.

The two were caught by solid detective work in an operation called Northgate. Police were also aided by the fact that Botmeh left a trail of potential clues and the blasts did not completely devastate the cars carrying the bombs.

Identification numbers in the wreckage led police to an auction in Loughborough, where the auctioneer particularly remembered seeing a distinctive BMW used by the buyer. Police narrowed it down to about 1,000 possible vehicles. As they reached the 199th they hit their target.

Checks linked the car to a series of parking tickets in London including one close to Botmeh's own address. He usually gave a false name but he had given his right name when stopped on the M1.

Police mounted a two month surveillance operation, eventually finding a terrorist hide Alami had kept in a relative's flat. Nearly five months later the owner of a storage unit in Acton, west London, called in police to an abandoned unit. Inside were prepared bombs, explosive and two more handguns.

Israel shooting, page 17

Drink and drug played part in Sassoon deaths

By A Staff Reporter

A DRIVER involved in a crash which killed him and five other young people, including two grandchildren of Siegfried Sassoon, had cannabis and more than the legal limit of alcohol in his blood, an inquest was told yesterday.

The six who died were returning to Frome in a Ford Fiesta from the "One World" music festival at Nunney, Somerset. Charles Weale, 21, of Salisbury, was driving. In the car were two grandchildren of the First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon — Tom Sassoon, 18, and Isobel Sassoon, 20, both of Frome; Stephen Stokes, 22, of Frome; Melanie France, 21, of Frome; and Christopher Ashton, 19, of Salisbury. Mr Ashton was in the passenger seat with Mr Stokes on his lap.

A van driver told the Wells inquest that he had desperately tried to avoid a head-on collision with the car, which was travelling on his side of the road. Brian Horler, who suffered broken ribs in the accident, told the Somerset Coroner, Nicholas Rheinberg, that he had been driving on the Nunney Catch bypass early on September 1 when he saw headlights coming towards him. He said: "I realised they were on my side of the road, maybe 200 feet away. I braked but we just collided."

Paul Norris, a carpet-fitter, told how he and another teenager, Oliver Perry, had been badly injured as they walked at the roadside when the Fiesta swerved across the road after the impact. By coincidence, they had been drinking with the crash victims.

The inquest was told that Mr Weale had a count of 111mg of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. The legal limit is 80mg.

A police accident expert, Sergeant Michael Handy, said he calculated the closing speed at impact at over 100mph — with the van probably at about 40 mph and the car about 60 mph.

Sgt Handy said that having three people in the front could have created problems for a driver and that the number of people in the vehicle could have affected the steering.

Mr Rheinberg said that excess alcohol was the only possible explanation for the actions of the driver. He recorded verdicts of deaths by multiple injuries as a result of a road accident.

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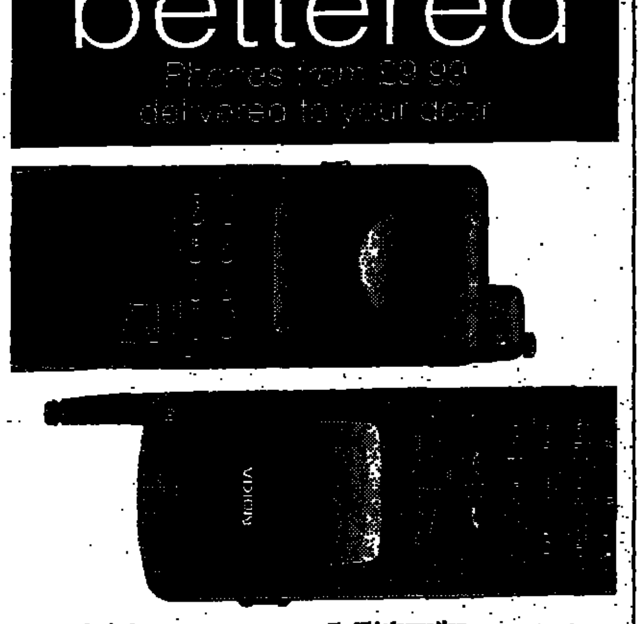

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Labour MP's Bill tightens curbs on combat knives

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

DEALERS in combat knives will face up to two years in jail under a government-backed Bill unveiled yesterday.

Police are also to be given stronger stop-and-search powers to restrict the possession of knives in public. The measure will allow police to stop and search pupils in school playgrounds if they suspect that knives are being carried.

The Private Member's Bill, to be proposed by James Wray, Labour MP for Glasgow Provan, will also provide for the restriction of advertising under aggressive descriptions such as "The Vindicator" and "Rambo knife". It is likely to have a speedy passage through Parliament.

The Bill has been drawn up after consultations between the Government and opposition parties amid growing public concern over the issue. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, agreed to co-operate with his shadow, Jack Straw, and Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, after pressure from the Opposition.

Mr Wray, who topped this year's Private Member's Bill ballot, said he was keen to see action to restrict combat knives and so had allowed his slot to be used. The Knives Bill was drawn up after negotiations with the Home Office, the police and other interested bodies. Mr Straw said: "There is great public concern that knives plainly designed for violence and with lurid titles are on open sale. We now have a Bill which will stop people selling or promoting these appalling knives, and will make a significant contribution to reducing the knife culture."

Mr Howard promised government support for the Bill, which has its Second Reading tomorrow. He said: "Stopping the aggressive marketing of knives will help to counter the threat of a knife culture developing in this country. It will also help to discourage youngsters from carrying knives."

Under the Bill, it will become an offence to market a knife in a way which "indicates or suggests that it is suitable for combat" or is "likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour". It will also be an offence to sell, hire or offer for sale or hire a knife suitable for combat.

The decision on whether a particular knife is suitable for combat will be left to the courts. It will become an offence to publish material in connection with marketing a knife which suggests violence or that the weapon is suitable for combat.

The Bill provides for a number of exemptions including knives intended for use by the Armed Forces and knives marketed as collectors' pieces.

Under the extended police powers, an officer of the rank of superintendent or above will be able to order the stopping and searching of people and vehicles if he or she believes that they are carrying knives or offensive weapons. The power, in a designated area, will exist for 24 hours.

A person found guilty of marketing a knife in a way that indicates it is suitable for violence or enocurages violence faces six months' imprisonment if convicted at a magistrates' court and a maximum two years if found guilty at the Crown Court.

The Police Superintendents' Association was delighted with the Bill. Brian Mackenzie, president of the association, said: "Our determination to find a solution to this offensive activity has paid off. Although it will not be a panacea, it should go some way to changing the culture of violence epitomised by 'Rambo'-type films and magazines."

Mr Straw said that 40,000 people had signed Labour's petition to ban the sale of such weapons. "The Bill improves the power of the police where there is particular and manifest danger of knife-carrying gangs in a locality. We believe that this section of the Bill will help the police without undermining civil liberties."

PETER NICHOLLS

Setting the stage for announcements: Darcey Bussell and Placido Domingo

Bussell in a song and dance about love

DARCEY BUSSELL put work first yesterday, but said that she would be getting married after the end of the ballet season early next year.

The Royal Ballet's principal dancer, who is engaged to a City banker, made her announcement as she joined Placido Domingo to promote today's fundraising gala for the Royal Opera House Development Appeal. Bussell, 27, who shares a flat in Earls Court with her fiancé, Angus Forbes, 31, said: "No date is set yet, but most probably it will be at the end of the season."

Today's gala, featuring Domingo, is to raise funds for five new ballet studios, increased dining capacity for audiences and year-round access to the building. Domingo said: "The tradition of this company is great both for ballet and opera and so much needs all the developments."

The Royal Opera House has been allocated £78.5 million from the National Lottery, and has set about raising matching funds of up to £100 million.

Domingo, 55, had an extra performance to reveal yesterday: the Three Tenors will be completing a hat-trick of World Cup performances in two years' time. With Luciano Pavarotti and José Carreras, he sang at the 1990 event in Rome, and in 1994 in Los Angeles. They will perform again in France in 1998.

Opera, page 35

Beryl Burton in 1967

Top cyclist died of heart failure

By Paul Wilkinson

THE world champion cyclist Beryl Burton died on a training ride when her heart stopped after years of unnoticed deterioration, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mrs Burton, 59, had competed only a week before she died, unaware that she was suffering from myocardial fibrosis. Her heart finally gave out in May.

She collapsed off her bicycle in a street near her home in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Because she was so fit it was at first assumed that she had been the victim of a hit-and-run driver.

That was discounted after a postman told police that he had seen no vehicles in the road at the time. Tests discovered that Mrs Burton's heart was diseased and had deteriorated over a long period. Colin Moore, the Claro Coroner, recorded a verdict that she had died from natural causes.

Only the week before she died Mrs Burton had raced alongside her daughter, Denise, to win the team prize in a Yorkshire roads time-trial. Seven months earlier she had taken part in leading contests, riding at a national time trial in Bedfordshire.

She won her first World Pursuit Championship in 1959 and road racing world titles in 1960 and 1967. Her records for time trials over 25, 50 and 100 miles still stand, as does her distance record of 277.25 miles in 12 hours, set in 1967. She married her husband, Charlie, when she was 17 and worked on a rhubarb farm to earn money to help to fund her training.

Unlike many, she stayed an amateur and remained a member of the cycling club in Morley, near Leeds. A square in the town has since been named in her honour.

Girls sing way into Irish record books

By Audrey Magee, Ireland correspondent

THE first Christmas concert by a girls' choir in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, was held yesterday, ending more than 550 years of male domination.

Boys' and men's choirs have sung in the Protestant cathedral since the foundation of the choir school in 1432. But girls attending the school, Ireland's oldest, were barred from singing in the cathedral until earlier this year.

"It is an historic occasion," said a spokeswoman for the cathedral, where Jonathan Swift was dean in the early 18th century. "Christmas is such an important time for choirs and it is wonderful that the girls are participating for the first time."

The 17 girls in the choir, aged between eight and 14, sang a 45-minute repetoire of choral and organ music for Advent and Christmas, including works by Brahms, Bach and Oxley. The girls had sung in the cathedral before, but yesterday was their first concert. Last April they sang matins after a decision by the Church of Ireland authorities to allow them to sing in the cathedral.

Barbara Dagg, the director of the choir, said 26 girls would be singing in the choir by next summer. The lunchtime concert was a great success: "It was a little awe-inspiring for many of the girls. Many of them are so tiny and facing a very large audience. But they managed and warmed to the event as it went on."

Built in 1191, St Patrick's is the national Church of Ireland cathedral, equivalent to Westminster Abbey. It was originally a Catholic place of worship and is one of three cathedrals in Dublin, two of which are Protestant. It first gained cathedral status in 1213. Jonathan Swift was Dean of St Patrick's from 1713 to 1745.

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£201,000 for half-brother of football crush victim

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

A MAN whose half-brother died in the Hillsborough football disaster was awarded £201,000 damages yesterday. John McCarthy has suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder since Ian Glover died in the crush in 1989.

Viewers of the drama-documentary about the deaths last week saw Mr Glover, played by a former star of Brookside, receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in a re-enactment on the pitch.

Mr McCarthy, now 35, from Liverpool, gave a spare ticket for the FA Cup semi-final to Mr Glover, who was 20. Mr McCarthy sat in the north stand but Mr Glover was in the Leppings Lane end, where 95 people were crushed to death.

In his High Court judgment, Mr Justice Sachs rejected an argument by South Yorkshire Police that it was not liable to compensate Mr McCarthy for his illness, which was not disputed, because his relationship with Mr Glover was not such as to give rise to such a duty. A House of Lords ruling in 1991 said that, to win damages for post-traumatic stress, a claimant would have to prove that there had been a "close and intimate relationship".

Mr Justice Sachs judge said he was perfectly satisfied that Mr McCarthy and Mr Glover were part of a close-knit family. Mr McCarthy's father died while his mother was pregnant and he had always looked on her new husband — whom she married two years later and by whom she had five children — as his father.

He had heard evidence that, after the disaster, Mr McCarthy had collapsed over Mr Glover's body, crying inconsolably. Mr McCarthy's wife, by whom he had two children and from whom he was separated because of the "catastrophic" change in him after the disaster, had spoken of the closeness between the two men. His mother had said: "They were as close as any brothers could be."

The judge said the reality was that Mr McCarthy would not return to his job as a machine operator, or other employment. It was reasonably foreseeable that, being a man of normal fortitude, Mr McCarthy might suffer psychiatric illness as a result of the Chief Constable's admitted breach of duty of care to Mr Glover.

The judge added: "I have considered the matter most anxiously, as I am well aware that the House of Lords indicated the limitations on this type of claim. My decision creates no precedent.

"I decide it on the facts of the instant case and I am satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities ... this plaintiff passes the tests required of him entitling him to be compensated for his hurt and consequential injury to his health."

The brothers' mother, Teresa Glover, said after the case: "I am happy and I'm sad. It is very emotional for us even after all these years."

Trevor Hicks, chairman of the Hillsborough families' support group, welcomed the award. "I am very pleased for John and his family and I am sure all the other families will share that sentiment. It is a bit of justice for one of the families."

Martin Davies, Assistant Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, said: "We are not in a position to comment until we've seen the judgment. Then we will have to decide whether to consider an appeal."

More than £10 million has been paid out of the Hillsborough disaster fund to bereaved families, and almost 650 fans have received cash payments. Last month four police officers won compensation claims in the Court of Appeal for psychological damage they suffered while rescuing victims. Fourteen officers have already won £1.2 million damages in the courts.

Worrying wait for a kidney transplant

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

THE EVELINA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL APPEAL
Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust

Children need cash for dialysis machines

By John Young

ELLIOTT SEXTON'S arrival in this world was nothing if not dramatic. Within hours of his birth, on May 26 last year, he was taken to the intensive care unit of the Evelina Children's Hospital in southeast London, suffering from a collapsed lung and severe kidney damage.

For his parents, Lisa, 29, and Vincent, 31, of Guildford, Surrey, it was a terrifying ordeal, but not an unexpected one. Eighteen weeks into Mrs Sexton's pregnancy, Elliott, her first child, was diagnosed as suffering from urethral valve syndrome, which meant that his bowels did not open and created the possibility of kidney failure.

"I refused an abortion and decided to go on with the pregnancy," Mrs Sexton said. "At 24 weeks everything seemed to be going OK, but then ten weeks later came the shock. Elliott's kidneys were badly damaged and the prognosis was very bad. We were told to expect the worst."

After Elliott's birth, by Caesarean section, surgeons at the Evelina, the paediatric unit of the Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust, performed a veiscostomy, cutting an opening in his stomach to release urine.

After two months his parents were told that he would need a transplant. One of his kidneys will be taken out shortly after Christmas. From then on dialysis will, it is hoped, enable him to survive on one kidney until a suitable transplant can be found. Mrs Sexton said the experience had been a huge strain. "But it has made us stronger. The people in the ward here have been absolutely brilliant. They've done everything they possibly could."

The biggest problem for kidney patients is the shortage of donors. If the supply of suitable organs could be increased, the need for dialysis could be reduced. "Children get weaker the longer they remain on dialysis," Margaret Hicklin, Evelina's clinical nurse manager, said. "Some die before a transplant is available, and that's such a sad waste of a life."

One of the big advances of the past few years has been the portable peritoneal dialysis machine, which patients can use at home and which eliminates the need for thrice-weekly visits to hospital. Joanna Craig, 14, from Thamesmead, southeast London, has such a machine, to which she attaches herself each night. "It's not at all painful and it's easy to use," she said. "I sleep right through it and most of the time I feel pretty well OK and can go to school. I only have to come here once a week or once a fortnight for a check-up."

Not all patients are as fortunate. The National Health Service does not pay for portable dialysis machines, which cost about £8,000, and the Evelina cannot afford as many as it would like. Much of the equipment around the renal ward, including oxygen saturation monitors, nasal feeding pumps and pumps for supplying intravenous fluids, is provided by charities. "Without these things it would be virtually impossible to operate a unit like this," Marcelle de Souza, the sister in charge of dialysis, said.

PETER NICHOLLS

Elliott Sexton will have a kidney removed after Christmas and will need dialysis until a donor organ is found

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

BBC faces court over death fall

The BBC was charged yesterday over the death of a freelance electrician working on the hospital drama *Casualty*. David Coles, 35, of Bristol, was thrown 130ft to the ground when a lighting gantry fell over during filming near Abertillery, South Wales. He died in hospital from multiple injuries. The BBC and an equipment company are accused of failing to ensure his safety. Abergavenny magistrates adjourned the case.

Family suicide

The husband and son of a woman who died after a long illness were found dead in their car only hours later. Police believe William Knight, 56, and Mark Knight, 27, who lived near Ringwood, Hampshire, committed suicide together in the New Forest.

Police must wait

The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Neill, reserved judgment until after Christmas on an attempt by the Metropolitan Police to reduce the size of awards to victims of police wrongdoing.

Murder remands

Amanda McDonall, 24, Susan Beveridge, 34, and Lesley Caren Jones, 23, accused of the murder of a 74-year-old pensioner, were remanded in custody for a week by Cardiff magistrates. John Walker was found dead in his flat in the city last month.

Baby stuck

A newborn baby had to be cut free by firefighters after his head became wedged between his cot and a foldaway table on which his mother was changing him in Birmingham Women's Hospital. The boy was unhurt, but his mother was described as very distressed.

Porky pie

Staff are trying to trace a customer who was inadvertently sold a fake pork pie, varnished and filled with wood chips, from a display at the Oven Door bakery in King's Lynn. "We want to give him a replacement before he wrecks his teeth," the manageress said.

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هكذا عن الأصل

Major launches Downing Street into cyberspace

Forget the white heat of technology: No 10 web site slumbers in a cosy fireside glow

BY MIKE MURPHY
INTERNET EDITOR

FOR anorak, read cardigan. John Major yesterday opened the best-known front door in Britain to Internet surfers by launching the 10 Downing Street web site — but most will find it ... well, conservative.

"Welcome to 10 Downing Street. I hope you will enjoy your Internet tour of this old, black-fronted house ..." reads Mr Major's reassuring introduction. Those with computers wired for sound may find that the Prime Minister's distinctive delivery adds lustre. Or not.

As Mr Major scrolled through the new and long-awaited web site with children from The Douai Martyrs School in Uxbridge at the launch in Downing Street yesterday, he was immediately upstaged by No 10's second most famous resident. Confronted on the last page by a picture of Humphrey the cat, Mr Major ventured a joke: "That cat's getting too big for his paws."

The tour of No 10, designed by Central Office of Information Publications, turns out to be reasonably entertaining, in a cardigan and slippers sort of way. The surfer is led through No 10's State Rooms, glimpsed by few other than VIPs or Cabinet members, with illustrations to download (firesides feature prominently) and an informative text. One learns, for instance, that the last private resident of Downing Street was a Mr Chicken.

That, however, is as interesting as it gets. At odds with the rapidly evolving world of all-singing, all-dancing web sites, the rest of the information offered is in text form. One does not so much surf as wade through files containing such information as the Queen's Speech and anodyne details of Cabinet ministers' careers. And what happened to the concept of instant access to up-to-date information? All former Prime Ministers are listed, but potted biographies are available only for the last half dozen. Press releases peter out on November 27.

An American-designed filter installed by an Internet access provider blocks entry to pornographic, racist, violent and other undesirable material. Zetnet Services of Lerwick, the Shetland Islands, says the Little Hat software means parents can let children browse web sites unsupervised. The filter is also designed as an option for schools and youth groups.

Anyone looking for insightful coverage of the rough and tumble of political life will be disappointed. Margaret Thatcher's removal from office is summed up thus: "After three years of her third term as Prime Minister, she was succeeded as party leader by John Major." Personal details about Mr Major are limited to the names of his wife and children and the revelation that "his recreations include opera, cricket and football".

No 10 bravely resists the worldwide trend towards interactivity in web sites. True, Humphrey pops up to invite one to sign the visitors' book, but it seems that Mr Major is not ready to embrace direct links with the public: there is no facility on the site to e-mail him or his office.

By contrast, the official White House site, updated throughout the day, actively encourages e-mail to the President, the Vice President and the First Lady.

☐ Web sites: (Downing Street) http://www.number-10.gov.uk
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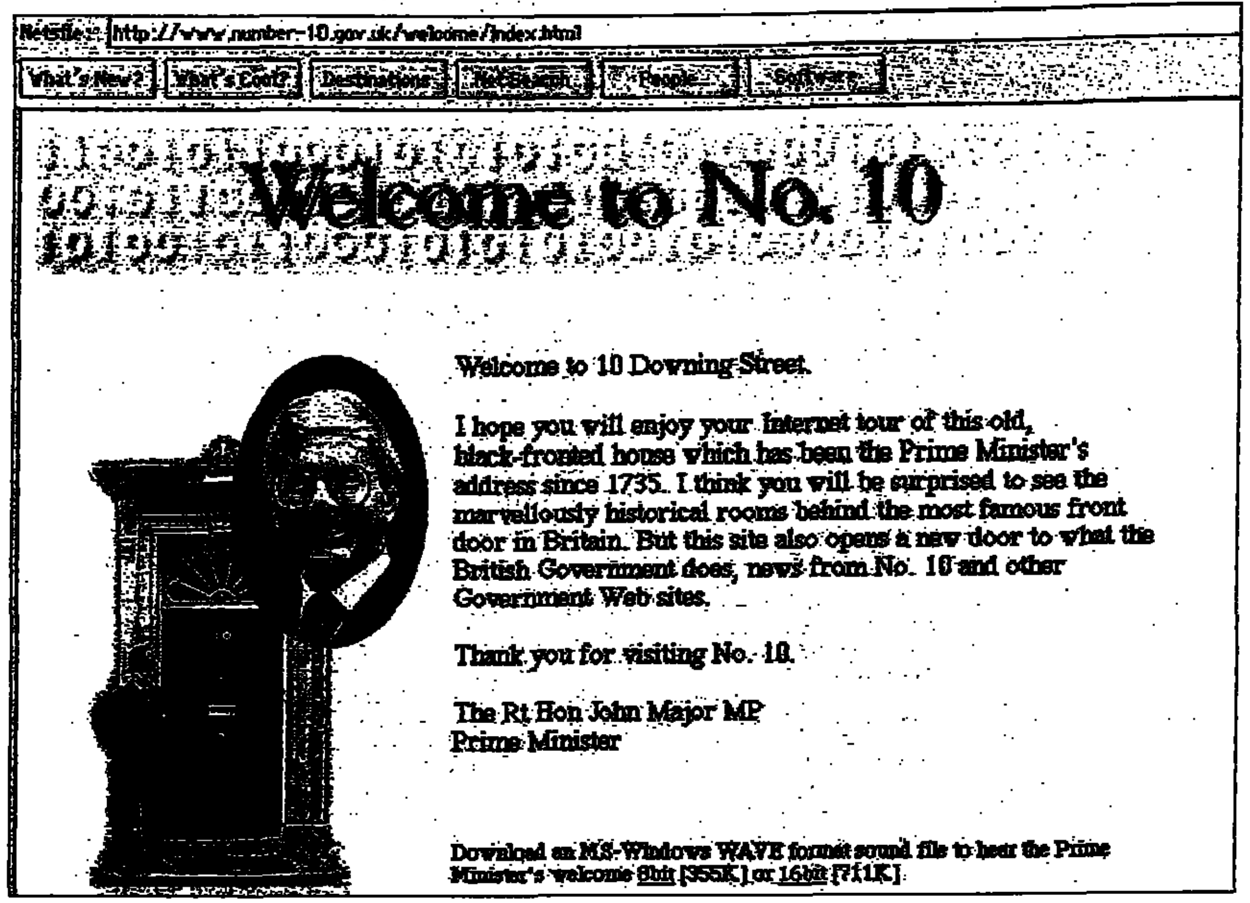

Welcome to No. 10

Welcome to 10 Downing Street.

I hope you will enjoy your Internet tour of this old, black-fronted house which has been the Prime Minister's address since 1735. I think you will be surprised to see the marvellously historical rooms behind the most famous front door in Britain. But this site also opens a new door to what the British Government does, news from No. 10 and other Government Web sites.

Thank you for visiting No. 10.

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Prime Minister

Download an MS-Windows WAVE format sound file to hear the Prime Minister's welcome 8bit [355K] or 16bit [711K].

Net loss: the No 10 site deals more with history than with the serious business of modern government

Vatican pulls the plug on Internet service after high-level opposition

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Vatican has suspended its Internet service after just a year online because of opposition from "forces within the hierarchy", according to an Italian newspaper. *La Stampa* said the decision would be a disappointment for many children who had planned to send Christmas messages to "Baby Jesus, c/o the Vatican".

A Vatican spokesman said that the service, started last Christmas, had been temporarily suspended. He said that it had been considered experimental and would resume once it had been decided what material users should be able to access. A review of the number and nature of connections or "hits" was in progress. *La Stampa* said, however, that elements of the Vatican hierarchy had been "questioning the value and purpose of the web site".

Subscribers paid $400 (£242) a year to access information about the Pope's activities and a selection of papal speeches and homilies. The papal emblem — the keys of St Peter — was displayed followed by an image of John Paul II offering a benediction. Users could then choose information in Spanish, English or French.

The service was launched just as the Pope fell ill with what was initially diagnosed as flu. Millions saw him abandon his televised *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas message in distress, and thousands used the new service to send get-well messages. One e-mail message from an American girl called Sarah advised him to have chicken soup and lots of liquids.

Internet bulletins on the Pope's health and appendectomy were issued during the year. But suggestions that the service might be extended to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which issues Vatican rulings on issues such as celibacy, birth control and women priests, and the Vatican Library and museums, have so far come to nothing.

Priest's book sanctuary holds the key to Saturn

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A LUTHERAN pastor's mission to save thousands of books from destruction in the former East Germany has provided an invaluable contribution to space exploration. One of the books contained the recipe for a ceramic that will be used by the Cassini probe on a seven-year voyage to Saturn.

When Germany was unified in 1990, libraries threw out millions of old books, partly because they assumed they would soon get much better ones from the West, and partly to mark a break with the past. Even science and engineering texts carried some reference to building socialism.

But Martin Weskott, a Lutheran priest from Katlenburg, could not bear to see them destroyed. He saved 700,000, taking some from heaps by the side of the road and storing them in the barns of an old monastery. He earned the nickname "the book pastor" for his efforts. They proved invaluable, *New Scientist* reports, when Dr Hans Lauche of the Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy in Katlenburg-Lindau set out to design a spectrometer for Cassini to measure the amounts of hydrogen and its heavy isotope deuterium in the atmosphere of Saturn.

The ratio of the two isotopes will give clues about the development of the planet, Dr Lauche believes, because as a planet grows its gravitational pull attracts more of the lighter isotope. The spectroscope is designed to measure the absorption of light at the wavelengths characteristic of the two isotopes.

To do this, Dr Lauche needed an amplifier made of ceramic bonded to glass. But modern ceramics used in space probes are all designed to expand and contract as little as possible and, if bonded to glass, will break apart as the rates of expansion are so different.

Dr Lauche searched for information about older materials such as magnesium silicate, which expands and contracts like glass, but could find nothing. Finally he turned to Herr Weskott and the books he had stored in the barn.

There he found the details he needed. In East Germany, the older materials had not been replaced by more modern ceramics. "You need temperatures of 2,000C to make the modern ceramics, but you can make the old ones with only 1,400C," he said. Brown coal, the staple fuel of East Germany, burns at this temperature.

The instrument is now ready to fly. Cassini, a joint operation by the European Space Agency, the US space agency Nasa, and the Italian Space Agency, is due for launch next October.

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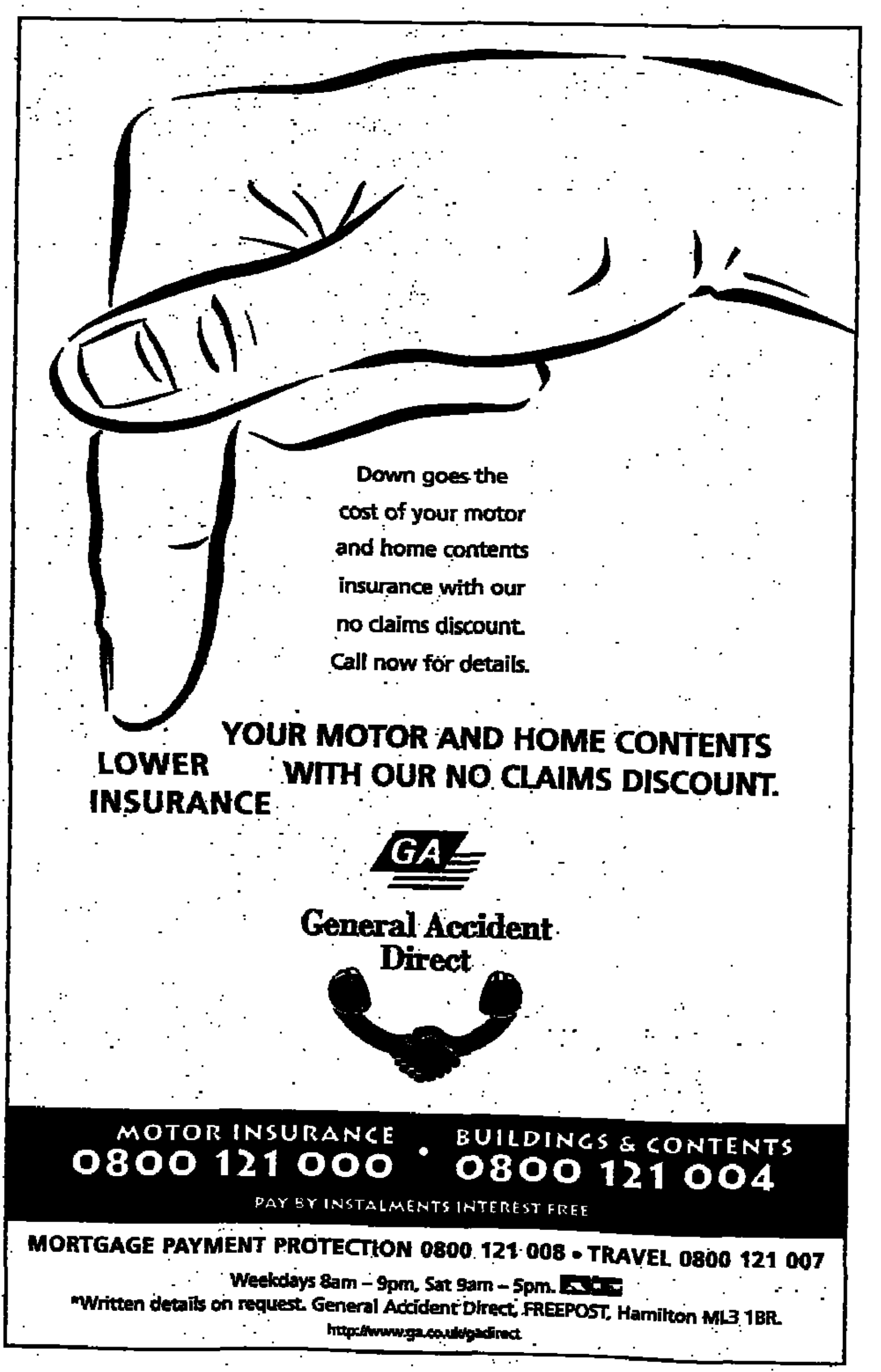
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Gulf veteran found out about pesticides before ministers

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

OFFICIALS at the Ministry of Defence knew the full extent of the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf at least two months before ministers were told, the Commons Defence Committee learnt yesterday.

They even informed a Gulf War veteran in writing that "the full picture" had not been given by the ministry, in a letter dated four weeks before *Nicholas Soames, the Armed* Forces Minister, made an emergency statement to the Commons correcting previous parliamentary answers that organophosphate pesticides had been used on a limited scale only.

Doyle: received letter outlining use of spray

Bernard Doyle, a craftsman with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attached to 7th Armoured Brigade during the Gulf War, *received a letter on August 27* from Lieutenant-Colonel John Graham of the Defence Medical Services Directorate, outlining the wide use of the potentially dangerous pesticides. The information was contained in an MoD briefing note No 3, dated July 19, 1996. The document was waved at MoD officials by Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat member of the Defence Committee, when they were questioned yesterday.

Mr Campbell said: "It is a disgrace that a letter is sent to a member of the public in which he is given relevant and significant information on a matter of the utmost controversy and the utmost interest *to Parliament and that that* information is not given to ministers until a month later."

Mr Doyle, 33, from North Wales, left the Army in 1993 and is now "unemployable", suffering from chest problems and a muscle-wasting neurological disease. Yesterday his wife, Sylvia, said her husband had described his symptoms to the Organophosphate Network and was told that he had "OP poisoning". *She* said: "He is now on a 60 per cent war pension and extremely ill. It seems extraordinary that by badgering the ministry, he *eventually found* out what he needed to know, yet ministers were apparently kept in the dark."

The committee was also told that three weeks before Mr Doyle received the letter, Group Captain Bill Coker, the consultant physician who headed the Gulf medical assessment team until last month, told the War Pensions Agency that no organophosphates were sprayed. Group Captain Coker told the MPs that he knew pesticides had been used because a number of the servicemen he had seen had mentioned it, but he was not aware they were organophosphates.

Mr Doyle said yesterday: "I had been pestering the MoD for a long time and then suddenly the evidence I had been after landed on my *doorstep. I don't think*: the MoD realised the significance of what it had sent me."

The MPs also learnt that military reports giving details about the use of locally supplied pesticides, containing high dosages of diazinon, a dangerous substance, were available in March 1991. Fifty-four Gulf War veterans are now being re-examined for possible pesticide poisoning.

A full investigation headed by Richard Mottram, the ministry's permanent secretary, is expected to be completed by February.

ANDRE CAMARA

Dr Jonathon Pines with a dish containing the fluorescent protein. "Hopefully, this will enable us to design more specific drugs," he said

Jellyfish provide flash of inspiration in cancer hunt

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

A FLASHING light used by jellyfish to ward off danger is helping in the fight against cancer.

The fluorescent protein produced by the jellyfish *Aequoria victoria*, which lives in the Pacific, is being used to examine how individual proteins move when a human cell divides. Cambridge scientists have taken the gene containing the instructions for making the protein and incorporated it into human cells in their laboratory, to provide a fluorescent tag. When the proteins are illuminated by blue light under a microscope, *they fluoresce and stand* out clearly. Dr Jonathon Pines, who is leading the research at the Wellcome/Cancer Research Campaign Institute, said: "Cancer cells often divide when they shouldn't. Until now, experts have only been able to guess which part of the machinery has run out of control.

"This area of research is helping us better understand how to tackle *cancer at its beginnings. We're using* this gene as a fluorescent tag for any protein that we're interested in."

One of the problems with cancer drugs was accurate targeting, he said. "Using this technique it *will be* possible to see what the drug is doing in the cell. Hopefully, this will enable us to design more specific drugs."

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "It's fascinating to think that jellyfish, which appeared more than 700 million years ago, are offering a modern-day solution to one of science's greatest mysteries."

Brixton banishes robbers

By Tim Jones

ONE of the most crime-ridden areas of London has recorded its third robbery-free day in five years after an undercover operation involving hundreds of police officers.

The borough of Brixton recorded *no robberies on two* days in November. The month long operation, Eagle Eye also covered Streatham, Vauxhall, Peckham, Walworth and Southwark and resulted in 78 arrests.

Uniformed officers and mounted police provided a high-profile presence in the areas to push known robbers to the edges of their normal operating areas. They were followed by plain clothes officers and arrested before carrying out crimes in other parts of the capital.

Victims of muggers and pickpockets were taken around *streets* in police cars to identify their attackers.

Lottery grants go to war

By John Young

GRANTS of £13 million to the Imperial War Museum in London and £3 million to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth are announced today by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The grant *to the Imperial* War Museum will support the third stage of its redevelopment, after the earlier redevelopment of permanent exhibitions on the First and Second World Wars. It will feature a gallery dealing with the Holocaust and an exhibition on the impact of war on 20th century society.

The grant of £2,846,000 to the Royal Naval Museum will go towards its redevelopment and expansion. The programme includes a gallery on the history of *HMS Victory* and the life of Nelson, and a recreation of the *sights and* sounds of the Battle of Trafalgar.

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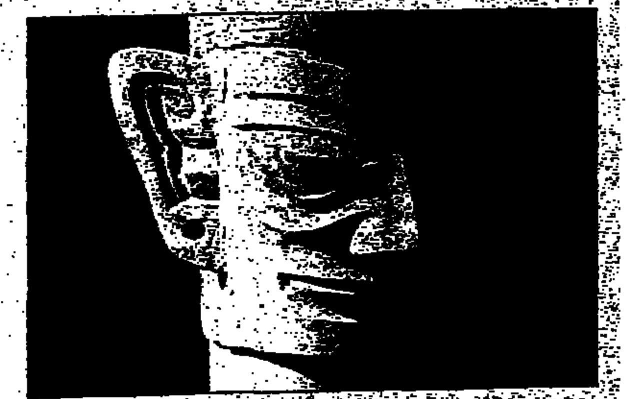

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'It is a parody of my views to imply that I think we should join EMU this weekend'

Clarke uses sceptical tone in bid to calm Euro-rebels

By Jill Sherman, chief political correspondent

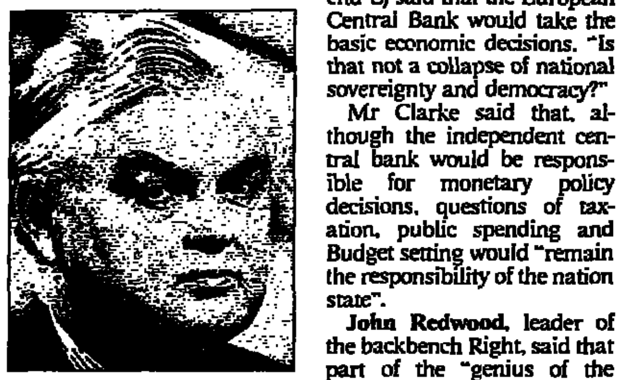
KENNETH CLARKE did his best to placate the Tory Eurosceptics yesterday by spelling out both the disadvantages and the advantages of monetary union and insisting that he was genuinely undecided about the merits of joining.

Adopting an unusually sceptical tone, the Chancellor emphasised the importance of achieving genuine economic convergence before even thinking about joining a single currency. Countries could not just meet the criteria in one particular year. "They must demonstrate a credible commitment to durable and sustainable convergence," he said. That was the basis on which Britain would take its decisions.

Opening a two-day debate on Europe before the Dublin summit this weekend, he said: "I am one of those who is genuinely waiting to decide. My judgment will depend on the actual circumstances that we face at the time and where the national interest lies.

"It is a parody of my views for critics to imply that I think the UK should join EMU this weekend. We need to have the full picture and debate all the issues before we take such a key decision on the economic future of our country."

Britain had everything to gain and nothing to lose from "staying in the game", and it was vital to keep the UK "punching its weight in negotiations". Whatever the Government decided, EMU would affect this country and Britain's interests needed to be protected.



Lamont: says Britain is losing the argument

But he was barracked by MPs from his own side when he said there was no Tory politician who was a federalist, and that none would accept a federalist superstate.

Amid further jeers he accused the Euro-sceptics of inflaming public opinion. "Treating the debate about EMU as if it were a debate about the creation of a superstate arouses public fears and deprives the public of sensible information about the issues," he said.

"In my view there are fewer and fewer people on the Continent who see EMU as a tool for further political integration."

Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) said the vast majority of the Tory party was against a single currency "precisely because it would be the end of the nation state". Mr Clarke said: "If I shared that belief I would be against EMU, but I do not share that belief."

Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Southend E) said that the European Central Bank would take the basic economic decisions. "Is that not a collapse of national sovereignty and democracy?"

Mr Clarke said that, although the independent central bank would be responsible for monetary policy decisions, questions of taxation, public spending and Budget setting would "remain the responsibility of the nation state".

John Redwood, leader of the backbench Right, said that part of the "genius of the current British economic policy and recovery is the fact that we have flexible exchange rates and interest rates suited to our needs".

The former Chancellor **Norman Lamont** queried Mr Clarke's claim that EMU would not lead to political union, saying "most of our partners in Europe, certainly the Germans, seem to believe this".

But Mr Clarke pointed to statements by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, saying that he was not in favour of a federal superstate.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that at least 50 Tory MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates planned to stand on a separate manifesto opposing a single currency. "There is a pattern of events that is consistently followed where the Eurosceptics in the Conservative Party make a demand, where they expect the Prime Minister to vacillate, where the Chancellor digs in, where the Prime Minister retreats for a little, where factional war then breaks out, and where the war of factions is effectively what decides the final outcome." The Tories had "long ceased to be able to govern on this vital issue of Europe" and could not unite the country. "They cannot even unite their own party."

Mr Lamont said: "We are not winning the argument in Europe. There is a fundamental irreconcilable difference between what we want from Europe and what the Europeans want from Europe. And, one day, that clash will have to be faced and choices made."

The Government risked being left powerless to lead the debate in Europe at the general election. "The trouble with a wait-and-see policy is that it assumes that there is no fundamental issue of principle involved in monetary union. But there is a profound principle involved — and that principle is: can a country continue to be an independent, self-governing country within a monetary union?

He added: "The risks of being in the single currency are far greater than the risks of being out."

Scott pins blame on party's right wing

By James Landale

SIR NICHOLAS SCOTT blamed Tory rightwingers yesterday for his deselection as the party's next candidate for Kensington and Chelsea.

The former minister, speaking publicly about his rejection for the first time, denied that concern about his drink-driving conviction and another alcohol-related incident had tipped the balance of support against him.

Sir Nicholas told Granada Talk TV that especially those party members from the Kensington side of the newly merged constituency were determined to get rid of him. "They wanted somebody who was anti-European and somebody on the Right of the party. This is nothing at all to do with the drinking incidents."

He said he would like to see Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, become the next Prime Minister. It was widely thought that had he kept his seat he would eventually have stood aside for Mr Patten.

The former minister Alan Clark told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that he would like to stand for Kensington and Chelsea.

Agency berated on computer security

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall editor

A GOVERNMENT agency was criticised by MPs yesterday for failing to ensure the security of confidential information on benefit claims.

The Public Accounts Committee is concerned that a computer firm handling contracts for government departments might pool such information and sell it on. It says that firms dealing with the payment of benefits should be rigorously checked to ensure that records remain confidential.

In a report published yesterday, the MPs berated the Information Technology Services Agency. They accepted that the agency would not allow the use of benefit records for profit, but were concerned that it did not know how companies producing Giro-cheque and order books handled the security of information.

They told the agency, which comes under the Department of Social Security: "There are understandable public concerns about the potential misuse of this data". The MPs urged them to immediately seek information from the computer firms handling the payment of benefits.

The agency told the committee that it ensured that contract staff signed the Official Secrets Act and that there were "reasonable walls" between the contracts run by Electronic Data Systems (EDS), a firm with contracts for the Benefits Agency, the Inland Revenue and the Child Support Agency.

The committee asked whether a contractor could market information after removing personal details. The agency said that it would disapprove of any such use of claimants' records for personal gain, but it could not say what safeguards companies used to prevent this.

MPs were studying the £577 million contracts set up by the Information Technology Services Agency with EDS, SEMA Group plc, and International Computers Ltd. The agency projected savings of £399 million by hiving off the services, but MPs were concerned that the figure might now be in doubt as contractors' prices were £74 million, about 13 per cent higher than estimated.

MPs told the agency to monitor closely the performance of the firms.

Tory majority at risk in by-election today

LABOUR looks certain to wipe out the Government's Commons majority of one today when voters go to the polls in the Barnsley East by-election (James Landale writes).

The poll for the Labour stronghold in South Yorkshire was caused by the death of Terry Patchett, who held a 24,777 majority at the last general election. Jeff Ennis, the 44-year-old Labour candidate, is expected to win the contest and enter Parliament as soon as possible.

Although the decision by the Tory MP Sir John Gorst to withdraw his support for the Government last week in effect cut the Tory majority of one, he did not resign the whip and he is still counted as part of the Government's vote.

But if Labour wins today, when Mr Ennis enters Parliament the Government will have the same number of MPs as those of all the opposition parties

The candidates are: Jane Ellison (C); Jeff Ennis (Lab); Dave Willis (Lib Dem); Ken Capstick (Socialist Labour Party); Julie Hyland (Socialist Equality Party); Count Nikolai Tolstoy (UKIP).

☐ *1992 general election result: Terry Patchett (Lab) 30,346. John Procter (C) 5,569. Ms S Anginotti (Lib Dem) 3,399. Turnout: 72.7 per cent.*

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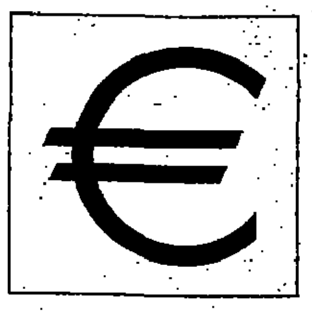
Europe gets first look at new banknote logo

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS



EUROPE will have its first glimpse tomorrow of the banknotes destined to replace the francs, marks and other currencies that will unite in *the future* euro. Jumping the gun, however, Brussels has unveiled its wishes for the future logo.

If the European Commission has its way, the crescent-shaped "e", with its twin bars, will become as familiar to shoppers and global bankers as the $ sign. "We thought that there was a need for a standard symbol and somebody had to come up with it," said an official on the team of Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary Commissioner.

While the politicians squabble over the machinery, the Commission is using the "e" device in an advertising campaign to acquaint citizens with *the future euro well ahead of* E-day. The euro will become legal tender for transactions when exchange rates are locked on January 1, 1999, but the notes and coins will not start circulating until 2002.

"This is going to be on all your T-shirts," said the official, referring to the £16 million that has been spent on the campaign this year. The drive, which will *involve nifty play* on such words as "e-xcellence" and "e-xcitement", will be bypassing Britain in deference to the Government's "rather strong message" this year about its distaste for Brussels' advertising, officials said.

Britain, however, has been involved in the secret project that comes to fruition at the *Dublin* European summit tomorrow when the European Monetary Institute, embryo of the future Frankfurt central bank, unveils the designs for the seven euro notes.

As home to the Eurovision song contest, the Irish Republic seems an appropriate venue for announcing the winners in a competition for a product that is harmonised and bland enough to sound no discord from Helsinki to Madrid.

Given the design ground rule of avoiding offence, critics are ready with their *nul points*. At the insistence of Germany, which calls the shots in the E-project, four teams from each member state had the daunting task of expressing Europe's civilisation without any identifiable reference to national events, people or places.

There was to be no question, for instance, of offending France or Spain with British sailing ships, or upsetting France's old foes or foreign sensibilities with guillotines or the half-naked maidens at the barricades beloved of French notes. This month the jury of central bankers, including Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, made its choice from themes featuring seven historical periods with seven different landscapes, seven architectural eras and seven groups of people.

Even these, however, must be homogenised into a euro-norm, so the Eiffel and Pisa towers are out, as are obviously German or Scottish castles. Hard-pressed entrants, including Britain's De La Rue and the Bank of England, were said by EU officials to have offered composites, such as a hybrid woman with a Nordo-Mediterranean look that could have come only from multinational ancestry.

Even landscapes could run into trouble if they go in for the snowflakes beloved of Nordic notes or depict such things as blatant Mediterranean islands. Given the lack of Conti*nent-wide symbols, irreverent* suggestions included such European institutions as a social security cheque.

In a German concession to pressure from Britain and France, the bankers left open the option of deciding whether to allocate one fifth of the note to a box with a national motif for the state in which it circulates.

Although the design is still unrevealed, the colour of Europe's money has been announced. There will be grey for E5, red for E10, blue for E20, orange for E50, green for E100, yellow and brown for E200 and purple for E500.

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BENOIT DOPPAGNE/REUTER

Jacques Santer, who yesterday made another veiled attack on British hostility to Europe

Euro-sceptics told EU 'is best way to safeguard sovereignty'

BY CHARLES BREMNER, AND LEYLA LINTON IN STRASBOURG

JACQUES SANTER, President of the European Commission, yesterday took aim at British fears over sovereignty, saying deeper European integration was the best way to safeguard national interests, adding there was no *alternative*.

Mr Santer delivered the latest in a spate of veiled attacks on London as EU leaders prepared for tomorrow's Dublin summit, which is threatened by a feud over German insistence on tough rules for monetary union.

Clearly aiming at British Euro-sceptics, Mr Santer said the notion of Europe as a simple marketplace was an idea of the past. "Safeguarding national sovereignty means equipping ourselves with the means to make national interests … prevail in the face of the unstoppable globalisation of the economy and politics," he said. The means to this was a deep reform of the Maastricht trea*ty, a project now under* way at the inter-governental conference (IGC), and to be reviewed by leaders in Dublin.

"There is no alternative to an ambitious reform of the treaty. The European Union is not the enemy of national sovereignty. On the contrary, those who want to succeed in the world of today and tomorrow can only do so through a Union that is strong and influential."

Mr Santer, speaking to the European Parliament, voiced the Commission's disappointment over the failure of negotiations so far to get to grips with reforming the EU's institutions. With another nod at Britain, he noted that countries most resisting change were *those most in favour of* enlarging the EU to members from the former Eastern bloc. The aim of the IGC is to revamp the Union as a prelude to enlargement.

Ireland's rough draft for a new treaty was the main item on the Dublin summit agenda, but it is likely to be overshadowed by the quarrel over monetary union if finance ministers fail at a meeting today to find a compromise with Germany. In a dispute with fa-reaching political implications, Germany is holding out against almost all other EU states for machinery that would impose automatic heavy sanctions against members of a single currency that run irresponsible budgets.

*France, the other main pil*lar of the EU, opposes what its leaders see as a scheme that dilutes the sovereignty of governments over their economic policy. Mr Santer and French and German officials all voiced optimism yesterday that a compromise would be reached, but senior EU diplomats feared that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, could be preparing to take a hard stand on the so-called stability pact.

Nato hails Russian accord on security

BY CHARLES BREMNER

RUSSIA yesterday accepted an offer from the Atlantic alliance to start talks on a new security partnership in Europe, but it rejected the West's desire to link this with Nato's enlargement to the former communist states of Central and Eastern Europe.

In a shift that was warmly welcomed by Nato ministers, Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said Moscow was ready to start the dialogue long proposed by Washington and its allies on a new architecture for European security. Ministers formalised their offer on Tuesday at a meeting which made clear to Moscow that it would have to accept Nato plans to start membership talks with some of the Kremlin's former Central European allies next July.

Mr Primakov said Moscow was happy to start talks on a new document, although he stopped short of using Nato's terms of charter or treaty. "We were made an offer to hold consultations with Nato in order to settle any issues that might be of concern to us. I think this will open the door to fruitful talks," he said.

He repeated Moscow's firm rejection of the principle of Nato enlargement, however. This would "inevitably lead to a new division of Europe. That is unacceptable."

The future agreement on the East-West relationship "must be a document which contains more than general principles. It must have concrete elements," he said. Until now, the Russians have been wary of any commitment to negotiations because it could imply acceptance of Nato's eastward move. The Kremlin wants a binding agreement on equal terms with Nato, while the alliance envisages a "16 plus *one" partnership that would* associate the Russians without giving them equal status.

Nato ministers seized on Mr Primakov's response as a first step towards a structure for the post-Cold War Europe. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said he was "surprised and delighted by Russia's constructive attitude". Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said Mr Primakov's agreement was "very good news".

Executive faces trial in feud of car giants

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A FEUD between two top car makers, Volkswagen and General Motors, came to a head yesterday with an announcement that a senior executive would face criminal charges.

The state prosecutor in Darmstadt will tomorrow file charges against José Ignacio Lopez, who resigned last month from the board of Volkswagen. Industry sources say the Basque manager will be accused of embezzlement and industrial espionage. A more serious charge of fraud is likely to be dropped.

The feud began about 40 months ago when Señor Lopez, working at Opel — the German arm of General Motors, was head-hunted by Volkswagen. His brief was to cut purchasing and production costs. This he managed successfully, saving VW about £8 billion over three years. Opel claimed, however, that he and his team members, who defected with him, had carried away crates of secret information that was copied on to VW computers.

A judge in Detroit, the home of General Motors, has ruled that Señor Lopez could be pursued under anti-racketeering laws. General Motors had demanded Señor Lopez's removal, a public apology and a huge cash payment. However, Ferdinand Piech, the chairman of Volkswagen, yesterday told *Stern* magazine: "I am not aware what there is to apologise about because we have not committed an injustice against anybody."

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Setback for ivory trade as poachers kill 280 elephants

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE mass slaughter of more than 200 elephants by poachers in the Congo is certain to fuel the debate over the lifting of the ban on trade in ivory.

David Barritt, African director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, discovered the rotting corpses of 280 elephants killed in a recent poaching operation near Congo's border with Gabon. He believes it is the largest single mass killing of African elephants.

An entire herd of elephants, including calves and pregnant females, was shot in a forest clearing by local inhabitants wielding AK47 rifles. They had been hired by poachers from Brazzaville, the capital of Congo, and were paid as little as $10 (£6) for their work; and, in one case for a bottle of rum. Mr Barritt, who returned last week from the West African country, said he came across Taiwanese and Chinese businessmen in Brazzaville. He believes the ivory is being shipped to the Far East.

"The poachers told the local inhabitants, whom they hired, that it was all right to kill the elephants because next year the trade in ivory is going to be resumed legally," Mr Barritt disclosed. "This underlines our argument that if you have even limited trade in ivory it will be a catastrophe, because where you have a legal trade inevitably an illegal trade will follow."

Debate over a lifting of the ivory ban recently intensified after Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia came out in favour of a resumption of the trade. The Government of Zimbabwe has said it will use a conference scheduled to be held in Harare next year by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to have the ban overturned. The Government has been embarrassed, however, by a recent report which disclosed that ivory exports from the country to the Far East have been allowed to proceed unchecked.

> ‘ If you have even limited trade in ivory, inevitably an illegal trade will follow ’

Mr Barritt's organisation and other conservation agencies are opposed to a lifting of the ban. He argues that if the ivory trade is legalised it will be impossible to distinguish between legally obtained ivory and elephant tusks smuggled into the market by poachers.

Pro-trade conservationists argue, however, that poachers will kill regardless of a ban and they believe it is important to put a value on elephants so that the local population will regard them as assets and continue to conserve the species. Julian Sturgeon, the director of the Africa Resources Centre in Johannesburg, a conservation lobby group, said it was disingenuous to suggest that the mass killings in the Congo can be directly linked to the debate over the ivory trade.

"What is happening in the Congo is a tragedy but there are many social and political factors involved," Mr Sturgeon said. "It would be an insult to the intelligence to suggest this is just to do with the ivory trade. The way to save elephants is to accord them a value."

☐ **Panda plan:** China has set out on a tough mission to breed more pandas in captivity, as their numbers dwindle in the wild through hunting and the destruction of their habitat. The China News Service said in Peking that a mating programme and artificial insemination would boost the number of panda pregnancies from eight this year to between 40 and 60 over the next four years. *(Reuter)*

Critics rave over Madonna's magnetic Eva

STEVE GRAYSON/REUTER

Madonna after a press screening of *Evita* in Los Angeles and, right, as Eva Perón in a scene from the film, being released at Christmas

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

MADONNA'S breathlessly awaited turn as an Argentinian dictator's wife is being greeted in America with rave reviews that seem likely to bestow on her at last the acting stardom she craves.

Two weeks before *Evita's* Christmas Day opening, *Time* magazine has welcomed the film as "easily the best adaptation of a Broadway-style musical in decades", and its star as "a magnet for all eyes".

Making good on a boast that no one but her could carry the role of Eva Perón, Madonna was hailed even more enthusiastically by the trade paper, *Daily Variety*. She "gives her all to the title role and pulls it off superbly", the critic Todd McCarthy wrote. "Dark-eyed, intent and serious, she conquers the character as Evita conquered every challenge she set for herself in her own life."

Only *The Hollywood Reporter* struck a critical note, but such dissent is less likely to affect the film's fortunes at the box office than America's uncertain appetite for movies with virtually no dialogue. Alan Parker, the British director, has insisted on an operatic "sing-through" style even between set-piece numbers.

The new wave of adulation has done nothing to dampen Madonna's ego. "Evita is the first movie big enough to contain me," she said yesterday in her first interview since giving birth to a daughter. "I know I have a very big presence. If I overpower the movie, the movie fails." Hence, perhaps, her critical drubbings in films such as *Shanghai Surprise* and *Who's That Girl?*

"I related to Evita's commitment, discipline and ambition, and that bravery required for a girl of 15 to come from the *pueblos* and go to Buenos Aires to find her way in entertainment and later in politics," Madonna continued in the *USA Today* interview.

She stopped short of announcing political ambitions, but appears to welcome the inevitable parallels being drawn between Señora Perón's career and her own.

Argentinian gift fails to impress

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN PORT STANLEY

GUIDO DI TELLA, Argentina's Foreign Minister, has again sent virtually every Falkland Islands family a personal Christmas gift, provoking widespread derision in the islands where there is still deep hostility and suspicion about Argentina's intentions.

With a letter addressed to "My dear neighbour", Señor di Tella enclosed a copy of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's book *The Little Prince*. He calls it "a delightful little book" and notes that the author says it was "written for grown-ups full of imagination and dreams, who were children not so long ago". He adds his personal best wishes for Christmas and the new year to each islander.

Six hundred of the 2,400 Falklanders received copies, postmarked London. They need little imagination to work out the symbolism of the story by the French writer. Saint-Exupéry used to be a pilot on the mail run to South America from France before the Second World War. *The Little Prince*, his most famous work, describes a far away planet which the prince always wanted to visit. When he got there, however, he found that its problems and difficulties were very much like those of the world he had left behind.

The Falkland islanders no longer feel they live on a distant planet, and have no wish for intrepid adventurers arriving from Argentina — another world as far as they are concerned.

Several people, however, have been softened by the charm offensive from Buenos Aires and say it would be foolish to reject Señor di Tella's overtures out of hand because the anglophile Foreign Minister is recognised as one of the most eager to show a new face to the Falklands.

Letters, page 21

Customs caught with drugs haul

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

A CONGRESSIONAL commission investigating Argentina's corruption-ridden customs department yesterday found at least 1,500kg (3,300lb) of cocaine and heroin stashed in rented storage lockers in the cellars of the Banco Nacional.

Investigators prised open four lockers rented by Customs for $600 (£366) a month at Argentina's central bank and discovered suitcases and sealed cardboard boxes filled with drugs that should have been destroyed years ago.

Mario de las Neves, a congressman of the governing Justicialist (formerly Peronist) Party, who is heading the inquiry, said the drugs, worth at least $150 million, were likely to have been part of a shipment confiscated from Colombian traffickers three years ago.

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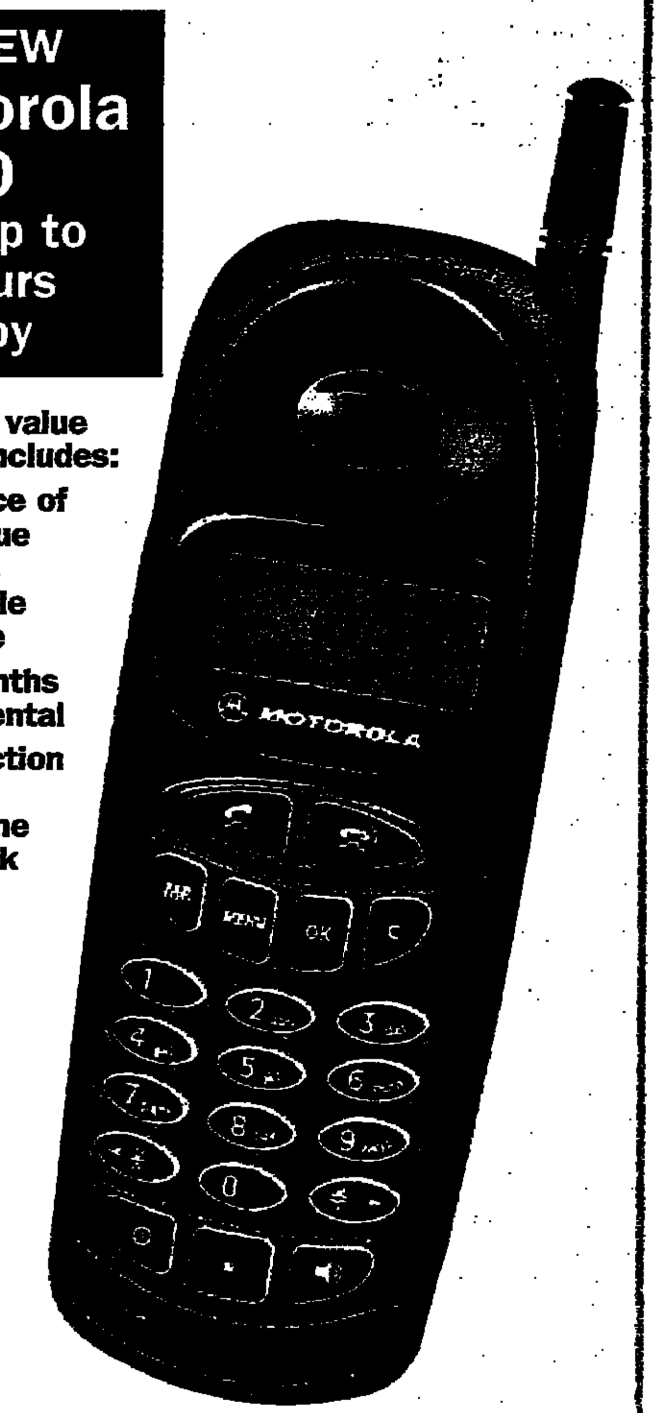

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Saudis give FBI evidence of Iran bomb attack links

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE FBI has received detailed information from the Saudi Arabian Government, which alleges that the bombing of a United States military complex in Dhahran last June was carried out by Saudi Shia Muslim extremists sponsored by Iran.

Details of confessions extracted from at least 40 Shias, accused in connection with the explosion that killed 19 American airmen, were passed to Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, by Prince Nayef, the Saudi Interior Minister, at a meeting in Riyadh last month.

The exchange included the results of Saudi wiretaps, other electronic eavesdropping and an analysis of movements by alleged conspirators into and out of Saudi Arabia, the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, Damascus and Tehran.

American officials said yesterday that it was too early to make a final assessment of the evidence to see whether they agreed with the Saudi theory. The Saudi Government believes that Iran's target was not so much the United States as the Saudi regime and its links with the West.

There is still suspicion in some quarters in Washington that Saudi Arabia is trying to foist responsibility for the blast on Iran rather than acknowledge that it was an act of domestic terrorism.

The Washington Post reported that several senior Saudi officials had suggested that the United States should lead either diplomatic or military action against Tehran early next year if the Clinton Administration accepts the link.

The information passed to America was said to portray an elaborate conspiracy in which the terrorists received explosives, bomb components and training from members of Hezbollah, the radical Islamic group backed by Iran. Some of the Saudis were said to have travelled with Hezbollah trainers to Tehran before and after the explosion at the Khobar Towers military housing complex in Dhahran and to have had extensive dealings with Iranian intelligence.

> ‘Saudi officials want the US to lead diplomatic or military action against Tehran’

The findings are certain to provoke strong reaction in Washington at a time when President Clinton has just changed his foreign policy team. Republicans were expected to renew demands for action against Tehran as soon as the new national security structure is in place in the new year. In August, William Perry, the Defence Secretary, was forced to back away from statements that linked Iran to the Dhahran bombing and the crash of TWA Flight 800. At the time, leading Republicans on Capitol Hill called for military strikes against reported terrorist camps in Iran if the UN failed to persuade Tehran to close them.

Although it could take months for the latest intelligence to filter through the system, the renewed co-operation by the Saudi Government was seen last night as a big turning point in the inquiry.

The American Government had complained previously that it was frustrated by a lack of co-operation from the Saudis, leading to claims by US defence chiefs that Riyadh had rejected security procedures at the base and hampered the investigation. The Pentagon has since moved 4,000 airmen from Dhahran to al-Kharj airbase, 60 miles to the south.

America also said that it had been denied access to four Saudis who could have had information to foil the Dhahran bombing. The four were beheaded publicly in May after confessing to a separate explosion in Riyadh the previous November which killed five Americans and two Indians.

Only senior members of the US Cabinet are being allowed access by the FBI to details of Mr Freeh's talks.

GREG MARINOVICH/REUTER

A block of flats devastated in last June's bomb attack that killed 19 US airmen

Tehran's dispatch of jets to Syria fuels Israeli war fears

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMID rumblings of war between Israel and Syria, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* quoted Western intelligence sources yesterday as saying Iran had recently sent a squadron of fighter planes to Syria.

In a front-page article that caused widespread concern, the respected Tel Aviv paper said: "The reports said Iranian planes landed in a Syrian airfield. It is still not clear whether the actions indicate planned co-operation between the two countries regarding Israel or joint training for both. In recent months, security ties between Damascus and Tehran have been strengthened."

The closer military ties, according to diplomats in Damascus, have developed as a result of the Israeli election last May which brought the Likud Government of Binyamin Netanyahu to power. The right-wing Prime Minister is opposed to the previous Labour Government's policy of handing back the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty with Syria similar to that with Egypt.

This week Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, confirmed press reports that Iranian military supplies to Hezbollah terrorists, operating under Syrian surveillance in Lebanon, had been greatly increased recently. The weapons were transported in planes flying from Iran to Syria.

The report on the deployment of the Iranian fighter squadron coincided with comments by the Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff that Israel "is prepared for war". Major-General Matan Vilnai's blunt warning further heightened tensions between Israel and Syria. "[Syrian President] Assad has no illusions as to what will happen to him if he starts to fight us ... he knows he will get clobbered," he said.

General Vilnai's remarks were the first public response by the military to a report in *Time* magazine that quoted unnamed senior officers as alleging that Israel was not ready for war, had let stocks run low, and training had been reduced in recent years when peace took high priority.

General Vilnai, one of the commanders responsible for planning Israel's defence, said the military preferred a policy of long-range planning in which more is invested in building units rather than stockpiling ammunition. He added that top officers were dealing "intensively" with war preparations.

The general's warnings did not please David Levy, the Foreign Minister, who took him to task for stoking tensions. Talk of war has grown since Syria held provocative troop manoeuvres; these were then matched by Israel.

Asked about General Vilnai's statements, Mr Levy told Israeli army radio yesterday: "There is no need for these declarations — Israel's strength is known."

He added that such remarks were likely to draw Syrian accusations that Israel was preparing to attack.

Paris ‘warned of terror campaign’

Paris: A fortnight before the latest bombing of a Paris commuter train, the French secret service sent a memo to President Chirac and Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, warning them that the Algerian fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was likely to begin a new terrorist campaign outside Algeria (Ben Macintyre writes).

The memo, entitled "Algeria: will the violence be exported?" which was leaked to *Le Monde* newspaper yesterday, stated that "all indications gathered on the ground [in Algeria] lead us to think that the conflict ... will be rapidly transported abroad." The GIA, which claimed responsibility for last year's wave of bombings in France, has waged a violent campaign of intimidation and murder in Algeria aimed at bringing down the French-backed Government of President Zéroual. The latest bomb, which exploded on a packed underground train on December 3 killing four people and injuring dozens, bore all the hallmarks of a GIA device.

Stand-off over UN chief

New York: France was under increasing diplomatic pressure last night to withdraw its opposition to the appointment of Kofi Annan, the head of United Nations peacekeeping, as the organisation's next Secretary-General (James Bone writes). Mr Annan, a Ghanaian who would be the first UN official to rise through the ranks to the world's top diplomatic post, has emerged as the clear front-runner in secret balloting in the 15-nation Security Council. But France voted against him and threatened to use its veto to prevent him from succeeding Boutros Boutros Ghali, whose bid for a second five-year term was vetoed by America last month.

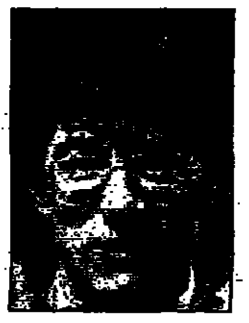
Superconductor hope

Lyons: French scientists claim to have discovered a new material that may be superconducting at room temperature — the holy grail of researchers in the field. At absolute zero (-273.16C) all electrical conductors become superconductors, in which current flows with virtually no resistance or loss of power. The team led by Serge Contreras, of the National Institute of Applied Science, said the lithium-beryllium-hydrogen powder showed no loss of power at 25C, but their results await confirmation. *(Reuter)*

Sudanese leader flees

Cairo: Sadiq al-Mahdi, the former Sudanese Prime Minister and a key opposition leader, said yesterday that he had fled to Eritrea to avoid being taken "hostage" by the Khartoum Government. Mr al-Mahdi, in a statement sent by fax from Asmara to Cairo, said he took the decision last Thursday "in order not to give the regime the possibility of using me as a hostage" to put pressure on the opposition. *(AFP)*

Bossi contempt trial



Milan: Umberto Bossi, right, the leader of the separatist Northern League, was ordered yesterday to stand trial on charges of contempt towards the Italian President. The charges stem from remarks Signor Bossi made at a political rally in which he said that President Scalfaro had put pressure on magistrates not to investigate leaders of the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). The trial will be held in October. *(Reuter)*

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Indian court orders end to child labour in dangerous jobs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

TENS of millions of Indian children working illegally in hazardous industries have been ordered out of their jobs in an unprecedented intervention by the Supreme Court.

"We have the fond hope that the closing years of the 20th century will see us keeping the promise made to our children by our constitution about a half-century ago," it said. The court ruled that anybody employing a child illegally must pay 20,000 rupees (£344) into a fund for his or her compulsory education.

Between 44 million and 100 million children work illegally in dangerous jobs. Twelve key industries have been identified by the court, including glass-making, firework manufacture, carpet weaving and brass production. It ruled that children employed in non-hazardous industries should not work more than six hours a day and must receive at least two hours of schooling. India has many laws supposedly governing the use of child labour, all of which are flouted with virtual impunity.

They ban children working in dangerous occupations, but employers are almost never prosecuted. The children are all low-caste or "untouchables" — now more commonly known as Dalits — giving them little influence with high-caste politicians.

Millions of children work as bonded labourers after being "sold" to employers by parents to pay off debts, which in practice are almost never cleared because of prohibitive interest charged by moneylenders. Police and social workers are bribed to ignore the practice of bonded labour, which is widespread in quarrying and carpet manufacture.

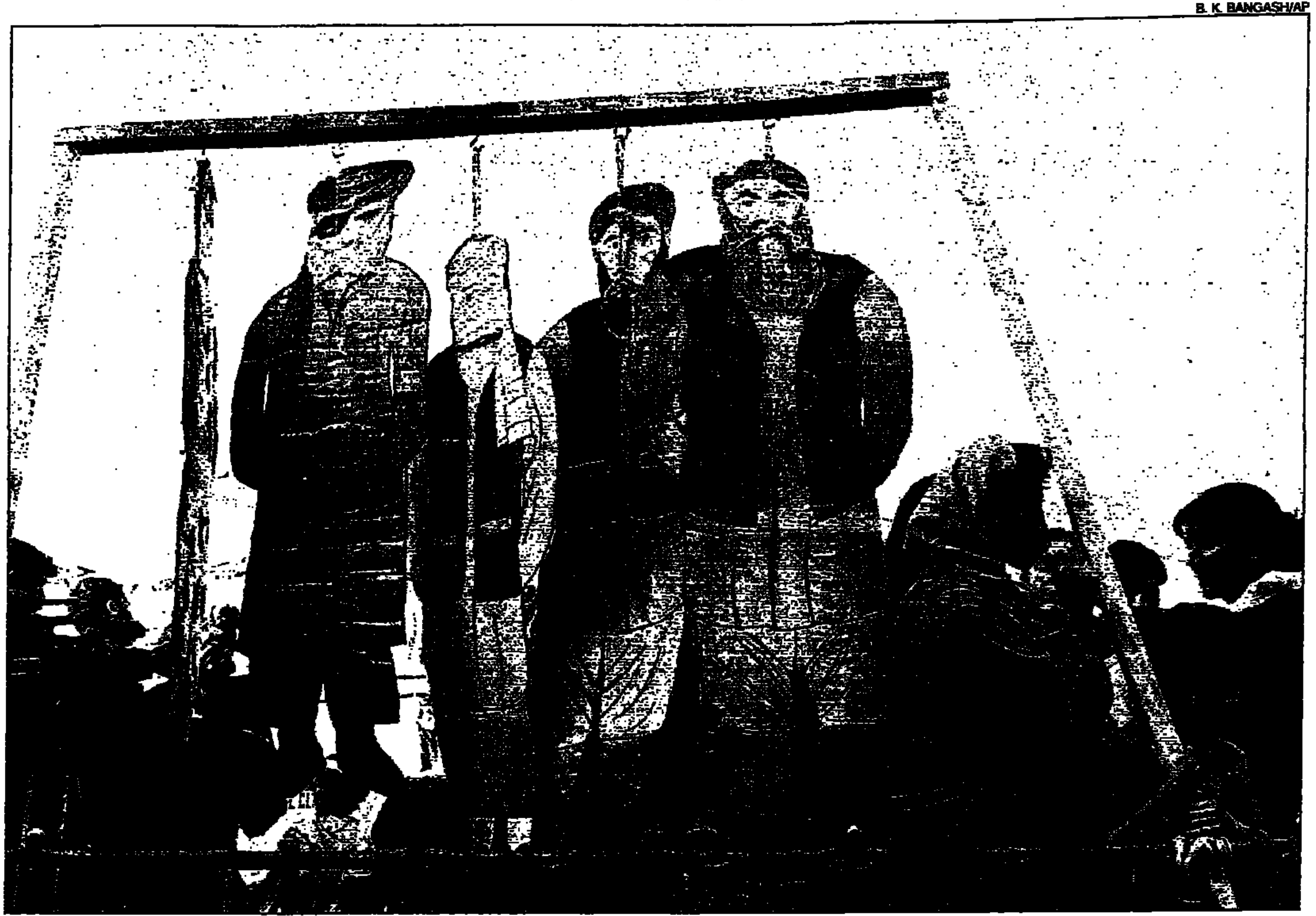
The exploitation of children is also commonplace in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, none of which have taken decisive steps to stop the employment of children in dangerous occupations.

The court ordered the state to find a job for an adult from the family of every child removed from a hazardous occupation. Alternatively, the state should give 5,000 rupees towards the child's education. It instructed the Government to conduct a survey of child labour, to be completed within six months.

The constitution mandates compulsory, free education of children until the age of 14. Few areas of India, however, provide adequate schooling. The Government says child labour is the result of poverty and will only be eradicated with growing prosperity.

The Supreme Court frequently intervenes in social issues where it believes politicians have failed to take action, and its latest ruling may goad the Government into taking steps to end some of the worst abuses.

B. K. BANGASH/AP



Afghan women in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, hang effigies of Taleban leaders to protest over violations of women's rights in Afghanistan

50,000 have fled Kabul

Kabul: Up to 50,000 people have left Kabul, the Afghan capital, since Taleban militia captured it in September, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Figures from a checkpoint on the road to Pakistan show that 49,099 people left Kabul and 8,631 returned between October 1 and December 7. "People are uncertain about their future. The economy is continuing to deteriorate and unemployment is rising," said Terry Pitzner, UNHCR head in Kabul. *(Reuter)*

UN chief says Iraq arms trip failed

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

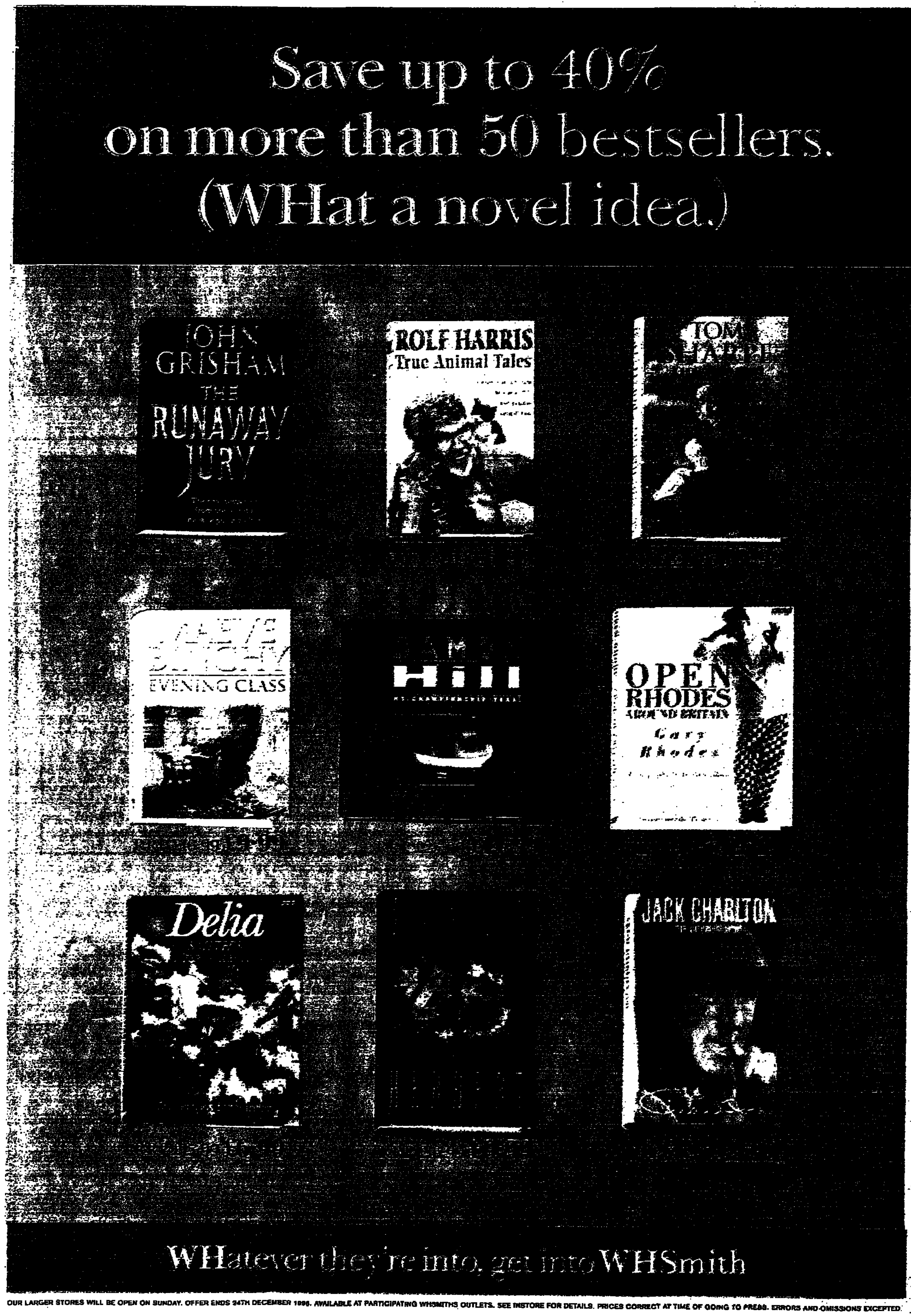
ROLF EKEUS, the chief United Nations weapons inspector for Iraq, declared his latest mission to Baghdad a failure yesterday after the defiant regime prevented him from taking scrapped missile parts to America for analysis.

Iraq's challenge to the UN came a day after President Saddam Hussein pressed the button that started Iraqi oil flowing to world markets for the first time in six years. The country's state-run media said that the deal which allows Baghdad to sell a limited amount of oil to buy food and medicine was not a gift, but "compensation for an unprecedented crime" against the Iraqi people, and promised it would keep fighting for the overall embargo to be lifted. That is impossible until Mr Ekeus gives his approval.

The UN suspects that Iraq has retained between six and 16 Scud missiles like the ones fired at Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf War. Analysis of the missile components would help the UN to verify the number of missiles Iraq claims to have destroyed and whether the parts were Russian or home-made.

"We have agreed to freeze it [the missile problem] until our next meeting, in February," Mr Ekeus said at the end of his four-day visit to Baghdad. He added that Iraq's refusal to allow his team to remove the scrapped missile parts was a serious breach of a key UN Security Council resolution.

"This is pretty much par for the course," said a Western diplomat monitoring Iraq from Jordan said. "This time Ekeus was going to use a different tactic. In the past, he has asked Iraq to give information about its weapons. This time he planned to tell Iraq what the UN believed Iraq has and was going to warn they better give him a full account."



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OJ jury sees tape of 'secret route'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

CAUGHT by chance in an amateur video, a gap in a hedge on O. J. Simpson's estate has given new credence to the theory that he clambered home by a back route after allegedly committing double murder.

The video, taken by Mr Simpson's former secretary and shown in court on Monday, clearly shows a gap in the foliage above a fence behind the guest house in which three loud thuds were heard minutes after the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend.

Mr Simpson's lawyers in the civil trial, in which he is being sued by the victims' families, argue that a bloody glove found in the alley between the hedge and the guest house was planted by police. But the gap in the foliage is directly above where the glove was found and where the Brown-Goldman legal team says Mr Simpson jumped to the ground before bumping into an air-conditioner protruding from the guest house.

The video was shot a week after the deaths of the two in 1994. It was allowed as evidence despite loud protests from Robert Baker, Mr Simpson's lawyer, who is presenting his case.

A verdict is not expected until next year. If found responsible for the murders, Mr Simpson could be liable for millions of dollars in punitive damages.

Israeli boy is killed in drive-by shooting

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FEARS of renewed violence in the occupied West Bank rose last night after a 12-year-old Jewish boy was killed and five Israelis were injured in a drive-by shooting by terrorists who were believed to have escaped into the Palestinian-controlled town of Ramallah.

The attack increased right-wing Israeli anger against the possibility of an Israeli pull-out from the last Israeli-occupied West Bank city, Hebron, whose future is the subject of deadlocked negotiations between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority led by Yassir Arafat.

Yesterday's attack took place near the sprawling West Bank settlement of Bet El, not far from the site in September of some of the fiercest gun-battles between Israeli troops and Palestinian police, which left a total of 75 people dead in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli security sources said that the Israeli vehicle was fired on by two gunmen in a car registered by the Palestinian Authority. The attack took place near the Palestinian village of Surda about 15 miles north of Jerusalem. Another Israeli was killed during a similar drive-by attack there in May.

Avigdor Schatz, a Jewish settler in charge of security in the region, said the wounded were thought to come from the same family. He said there were three Palestinians in the vehicle involved in the attack, two of whom were armed with automatic weapons.

Israel Radio reported that Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, held urgent consultations after the shooting to consider Israel's response. The radio said that Israel would not take the attack "quietly", although it also quoted Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister, as saying that it would not be "realistic" for Israeli forces to enter Ramallah.

Diplomatic sources said that the attack played into the hands of extreme right-wing Jews who say repeatedly that Palestinian-held towns have become bolt-holes for terrorists.

The rightwingers have made it more difficult for Mr Netanyahu to make the concessions needed to secure a troop withdrawal from Hebron. The Hebron negotiations are blocked largely by arguments about what rights of hot pursuit Israeli troops would have in Palestinian areas in the event of attacks on the 450 Jewish settlers who are now living in the heart of the city.

Mr Netanyahu was elected on a platform of providing "peace with security" and has made known since his election in May that he will respond vigorously to all forms of Palestinian terrorism.

A woman being moved to hospital in Jerusalem yesterday after she was shot near Bet El

Tycoon sails to victory in race for Patten job

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TUNG CHEE-HWA, a shipping tycoon and favourite of the Peking regime, was chosen overwhelmingly as Hong Kong's first Chief Executive yesterday by China's hand-picked Selection Committee.

The 400 members, including many of Hong Kong's richest citizens, gave the 59-year-old Mr Tung 320 votes. Ti Liang Yang, the colony's retired Chief Justice, received 42, and Peter Woo, a wealthy entrepreneur, 36. There were two invalid ballots.

Twenty-nine demonstrators outside the hall were arrested, including Emily Lau, Hong Kong's best-known independent democratic legislator. She was later released on bail.

After the Selection Committee had left the hall, Mr Tung made a triumphant entry and declared colonialism had ended, adding: "Now we are masters of our own house."

His election was "the first step in Hong Kong's democratisation process", he said, adding "our society has become too politicised in recent years" — a reference to the political reforms initiated by Chris Patten, the Governor, which last year produced a wholly elected Legislative Council, since declared invalid by Peking. The body will be abolished on July 1, 1997, when Hong Kong is transferred to China, being replaced by a Peking-selected Provisional Legislative Council.

Born in Shanghai and educated at Liverpool University, Mr Tung was, until he resigned in June, a member of Mr Patten's Executive Council or inner Cabinet. Last January, President Jiang Zemin of China, at a meeting in Peking, indicated with a single handshake that Mr Tung was his favourite to become Chief Executive.

Mr Tung was congratulated immediately yesterday by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister and Vice-Premier, who chaired the selection process and said the central Government regarded it as a great moment for Hong Kong's democratisation.

The Convention Centre's largest room had been transformed to resemble a hall in Peking's Great Hall of the People for the event, with the national seal floodlit behind a dais and the delegates seated in tightly packed rows.

In Peking, Xinhua, the official news agency, said Mr Tung's election "reflects the wishes of the majority of Hong Kong compatriots".

Anson Chan, Hong Kong's Chief Secretary and Mr Tung's expressed choice to continue as the territory's number two in 1997, said: "I think today is a very important and very happy day for Hong Kong."

Mr Patten urged Mr Tung — who has already said he regards obligations as more important than rights — to defend Hong Kong's rule of law and its individual rights and freedoms.

UN accuses Burundi Army of massacring 1,000 Hutus

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AT LEAST 1,000 civilians were massacred by the army in Burundi over a four-week period from late October to November, according to the United Nations.

The violence is believed to be continuing as the world continues to focus on eastern Zaire, where Tutsi rebels backed by the Rwandan Army have driven Hutu militias out of refugee camps.

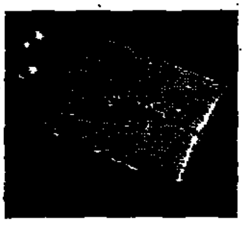
A UN human rights observer mission to Burundi, in a report released yesterday, said fighting between Tutsi-dominated government forces and Hutu rebels had intensified, triggering indiscriminate daily killings. "The human rights situation is alarming, with an array of massacres by both sides," it says.

The army was responsible for more than 40 massacre incidents while the rebels had been behind eight last month. "The military has a large responsibility in the massacres, most recently of returnees from Zaire," the report says. About 50,000 refugees, mainly Hutus, have returned to Burundi.

Without safe access to some of the regions, the four UN observers were in many cases unable to give casualty figures. However, they confirmed the massacre of between 258 and 435 refugees who were returning from Zaire in a church in the village of Murambi in Cibitoke province. In another attack in Gitega province, soldiers killed 35 people as they returned home from church.

The Burundi Army was systematically forcing mainly Hutu villagers to leave their homes and to regroup in camps. "As the period of assembly in camps has ended, the military is said to be spontaneously killing anyone they find in the hills or in fields," the observers said.

Diplomats said the number of army killings, mainly around the capital Bujumbura, and in the east of the country, had soared since a military-backed regime seized power in June.



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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on kidney stones, a mysterious skin complaint and treating football injuries

Alone in a world of ice — and suffering a curse of modern society

STEVE PYKE/KATZ

Sir Ranulph Fiennes: cold and lonely on his solo Antarctic walk — and now enduring the pain of renal stones

Sir Ranulph Fiennes's arduous solo march in Antarctica has had to be abandoned. He met an insuperable obstacle in the form of kidney stones. The pain from renal stones can be disabling, even if it is experienced in the comfort of home and with a kindly GP, pethidine at the ready, in attendance. To a sufferer in the Antarctic, already miserable, cold and lonely, the agony must have been unbearable.

Urinary tract stones occur in people from all parts of the world, but as countries become more developed, so the favoured site for the stone changes.

In primitive communities, bladder stones are common, just as they were in Britain in the 18th and early 19th century. As industrialisation and modern systems of agriculture — which provides protein-rich foods throughout the year — are established, stones become more frequent in the kidney.

Bladder stones are associated with a protein-deficient diet, whereas kidney stones are related to, among other factors, a high protein intake together with a diet rich in refined carbohydrates.

Kidney stones can also be a sequel to urinary tract infections, and to too small a fluid intake and resulting reduced urinary excretion. In hot climates it is important to keep up a high fluid intake, not only to lessen the chance of developing renal stones, but also malignancies of the kidney.

An inadequate milk intake can also help to cause bladder stones. In 19th-century Britain, a poor diet in infancy — and particularly a deficiency of milk — were blamed for the high incidence of such stones later in life.

In parts of Thailand, where breast-feeding is abandoned early and chewed rice is substituted for maternal milk, there is an unusually high rate of bladder stones among adults.

The risk of stones in the urinary tract is further increased in adults because of their fondness for the leaves of the local vegetables. These leaves are rich in oxalates, salts which provoke the development of stones. In other parts of the world oxalate-rich plants include rhubarb, cocoa, peppers and spinach.

In much of Asia, and also in Europe among those cultures where gout is common, urate stones outnumber those of other salts. Since allopurinol was introduced to lower uric acid levels in the blood, rampant gout is less common, and urate stones are less frequently encountered.

In Britain the majority of renal stones are formed from calcium oxalate or phosphate; when urinary tract infection has persisted for any length of time, ammonium salts are also mixed in to the calcium base.

The size of the stone is no indication of the amount of pain it will cause. A large staghorne calculus growing in an infected kidney pelvis may cause backache and a kidney infection, but these are probably less troublesome on an Antarctic trip than a small stone which sticks in the ureter on its way from the kidney to the bladder.

The pain is usually described as agonising and colicky; it is centred on the costovertebral angle, the area of the mid-back below the ribs, in the flanks, and on one side of the abdomen. The pain of renal colic radiates into the genitalia. There may also be pain when passing water, coupled with a frequent desire to do so. There may be blood in the urine and — if there is any secondary infection — also a temperature.

A large, fixed stone causes backache and later signs of urinary tract infection. If not treated, large stones can result in renal failure. Lithotripsy has revolutionised the treatment of kidney stones and reduced the need for surgery.

There are two varieties of lithotripsy — percutaneous or extracorporal shockwaves. The method chosen depends on the nature of the stone. In extracorporal lithotripsy shockwaves are directed through the unbroken skin, so that the stone breaks up and is then passed naturally. Percutaneous lithotripsy involves penetration through the skin.

Small stones need no treatment other than rest — which was obviously impossible on a rigorous Anatarctic crossing — together with analgesics. Pethidine is the drug of choice and is carried in most explorers' medical kits. Antibiotics are called for if there is any sign of infection.

Kidney stones can also be a result of metabolic or hormonal disfunction. Anybody, therefore, who has renal stones where the cause is not obvious should be thoroughly investigated by a nephrologist. Among the preventable causes of renal stones is over-consumption of Vitamin D; many multivitamin tablets include Vitamin D and if more than one is taken it is easy to exceed the maximum dose.

Blisters that could be fatal

Until this year Norman Reddaway, the former British Ambassador to Poland, had never had a day's illness severe enough to stop him going to work and his only brush with medicine was when, in his seventies, he fell off his motorbike. He made an uneventful recovery.

Mr Reddaway, now 78, is justifiably proud to be still as busy as ever. He has directorships in the educational, commercial and industrial world and is tireless in his support of Anglo-Polish friendship.

Life was bearable until the summer holiday began

He is proud, too, of his health, which is exemplified by the aspirins in his bathroom cabinet. These are so little used that they still have a price tag of 1s/6d on the packet. He did not take any other medicines, and apart from the unfortunate incident with the motorcycle, did not need to see a doctor until early this summer when he developed pemphigus, a potentially lethal skin disease. Pemphigus is one of a group of diseases which are usually classified together as the "rarer blistering skin disorders".

In May he developed itchy, red patches on his abdomen which, when they failed to respond to Betnovate cream, were treated with steroid tablets. At the end of the month he was in Barcelona, where he sat on a hard chair through a long meeting.

After the meeting the skin of his thighs, where they had been subjected to pressure, had become swollen and blistered. He had similar problems around his neck, where his collar had been tight. The skin was itchy, but life was bearable until the Reddaways started their summer holiday cruising the fjords of Norway.

Mrs Reddaway explains how her husband's skin blisters were as "large as ping-pong balls" and tended to occur where there was physical pressure. The blisters broke readily and oozed.

While in Norway he developed another skin condition, erythema multiforme. As a result of the erythema multiforme his hands and feet became red, blistered and denuded of skin so that he was unable to walk and the only answer was to be flown home to hospital in London. He was in hospital for six weeks, where one of the most distressing symptoms of the pemphigus was that each time his sheets were changed quite a lot of his skin remained on them, and he was left with a raw area.

After heavy doses of prednisolone the blisters have gone, although the skin where they were are still a bit red and itchy. But he is out and about again and is no longer in danger from what could have been a fatal disease.

His case is not entirely typical of pemphigus. It is unusual to suffer the intense itching that he experienced, although the skin of the blister was easily rubbed away. Mr Reddaway, too, is older than most people with an initial attack.

There are similar conditions, such as pemphigoid. The difference between them is related to the position of the blisters in the various layers of skin.

The cause of these diseases is unknown but pemphigus is thought to be an auto-immune disease, one of the diseases in which the body's tissues react against themselves. All the skin diseases of this group are sometimes associated with other medical conditions so that a thorough overhaul is part of the treatment.

Switching on the pain relief

ALMOST exactly a year ago Graeme Le Saux's football career nearly came to an untimely end. Blackburn were playing Middlesbrough when he suffered a fracture dislocation of the right ankle — a notoriously difficult fracture to heal which is often associated with severe ligamentous damage around the joint. Le Saux had played for Chelsea before moving to Blackburn, and in 1995 was an established England player. This season, before his comeback, Blackburn were at the bottom of the Premiership.

Given the urgency of the situation, Le Saux's treatment involved the use of a modified Tens (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) machine, as well as routine physiotherapy. Such a machine delivers small electrical impulses to the underlying tissues. When the standard Tens machine is modified to the Macdonald X-Pain device two electrodes are placed over the spine at the level of the first and twelfth thoracic vertebrae. The treatment has reduced Le Saux's pain to a point where he can play football; it also relaxes any spasm in his back.

He uses the machine for half an hour a day before training, or playing, and also for the half hour afterwards. Within one month of starting the regime Le Saux had started playing football again, and Blackburn have now climbed out of the relegation zone.

Graeme Le Saux's return to fitness was urgently needed

Screen test to cut cancer death rate

RESULTS of a ten-year study for the early detection of cancer of the colon and rectum have recently been reported in *The Lancet*.

The survey, conducted by Professor Jack Hardcastle, of Nottingham University, tested 75,000 men and women aged 50 to 75 for occult (non-visible) blood; 2 per cent of those who took part in the trial had such blood in their faeces. Of these, colonoscopy showed 40 per cent had benign tumours, and 10 per cent had cancers.

Extrapolating from these figures, Professor Hardcastle estimates that with such screening the present death rate of 19,000 per year from cancer of the colon and rectum could be reduced by 15 per cent.

Some doctors feel that too many people would be unnecessarily subject to investigations, however, and that in other cases the cancer would be missed by this screening of this type.

These doctors suggest that a better plan would be to provide all of those people at increased risk, or with symptoms, to have a colonoscopy examination. Most, however, have been impressed by the results and believe that there is now a need for a national screening campaign.

This opinion has received the support of Dr Robert Kendall, the former Chief Medical Officer of Scotland, who has said that screeing for these cancers by testing for occult blood, or by direct examination, must be considered urgently.

Scent of a woman explained

EVERYBODY smells differently. Some people have such a finely-tuned sense of smell that they know who is in a room even when blindfolded. In a recent report in *Doctor* magazine there is a suggestion that the unpleasant smell of sweat — which is the result of bacterial action on the skin, the sweat and sebaceous glands — also secretes pheromones, scents that are sexually attractive.

Dr Allessandra Graziotin, a gynaecologist from Milan, told the International Congress on the Menopause in Sydney that research has shown that at the menopause a woman's sense of smell becomes less receptive to male pheromones, and this is a cause of loss of libido in women of this age.

Dr Graziotin explained that even before the menopause, a woman's sense of small varies throughout her cycle and is strongest at the time of ovulation. Women's perception of smell is more acute than men's and it now seems that this advantage not only enables them to have a finer palate, but also to be equally discriminating about their men.

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Valerie Grove with Beezle: "Ignoring the posters about a dog being not just for Christmas, I collected the puppy in Christmas week. Beezle turned out to be the handsomest of his kind. But what was more striking was his engaging character"

101 things you didn't know about dalmatians

The lure of a sweet-natured spotted dog is irresistible. But owning a dalmatian can be the most demanding commitment outside marriage and children, **Valerie Grove** says

This dog is definitely for life, not just for Christmas. Owning a dalmatian, let me tell you, is about the most demanding commitment you can make outside marriage and children — and sometimes threatens to supersede those. After all, babies never obliged me to be dressed by 7am and striding across fields come rain, snow, fog or hangover.

It all began with a fascinating if egocentric little woman named Dodie Smith. She died at 94 in 1990, outlived by her last dalmatian, Charley, a dog that bit people; but he himself died of a broken heart when Dodie was taken away. When Julian Barnes, Dodie's literary executor, asked me to write her life, few people remembered her name, apart from theatre-lovers who still recalled her much-revived 1938 play *Dear Octopus*, and an army of women readers who revered her small masterpiece novel, *I Capture the Castle*. But her doggy story for children, *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*, had never been out of print, largely thanks to Walt Disney's cartoon film of 1961.

I finished writing her life, *Dear Dodie*, at the end of 1994. (The title reflected not her character, which was not very dear, but *Dear Octopus*, and the fact that she wrote millions of letters which, along with her voluminous diaries, provided plenty of material.) At the end, the lure of dalmatians lingered, and I fell for the idea of getting a spotted dog.

Ignoring the posters about a dog being not just for Christmas, I collected the puppy in Christmas week. By a fantastic stroke of good fortune Beezle (named after Dodie's husband, the saintly Alec Beesley) turned out to be the handsomest of his kind. His parents were both Best of Breed at Cruft's. But what was more striking was his engaging character: I realised why Dodie was so besotted.

Later that year, I heard that Disney was planning to remake the cartoon film with live dogs. Preposterous! I thought. Impossible. Then one day last Christmas, walking at Kenwood on a pitch black morning, I came upon a film set with cameras, lights, and a machine called Snow Business, shedding artificial snow.

When a cameraman told me it was for *101 Dalmatians*, I said: "You're joking." "We thought you were joking — walking on to our set with a dalmatian," he said.

The results can now be seen from tomorrow across the land. Glenn Close makes a magnificent Cruella De Vil; it was a brilliant touch to make her a mad fashion designer. Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson are charming as the Dearlys, Hugh Laurie and Mark Williams the foolish Baddums. And John Hughes uses all his *Home Alone* techniques in another Christmas hit in which good triumphs over evil. It has already broken all records at the box office in the United States, and will do the same here.

How Dodie would have loved to be enjoying this revival of her success. But the ironies of it strike me forcibly. Dodie, who had known phenomenal fame and fortune in the 1930s when she had a new hit play in the West End every year, realised that it was thanks to Disney that she again tasted that kind of fame. (Walt and his wife actually visited her at her Essex cottage, and she found him charming.) The cartoon's success enabled her 1956 book to keep selling, and Dodie named her next dalmatian Disney in his honour. But she had never particularly wanted to write for children (she had none herself) and wrote the doggy story in a state of suppressed rage because her plays were out of style in the era of kitchen-sink drama.

Perhaps she translated her rage into Cruella De Vil. Cruella was in fact inspired by a chance remark made by an actress friend of hers.

Dodie had acquired her first dalmatian because her flat in Dorset Square was decorated in black and white Bauhausian style. Sir Ambrose Heal, her former lover, had decked it out with stark white walls, black furniture, and a white carpet speckled in black. "All I need now is a dalmatian," said Dodie in jest.

And on the morning of her 38th birthday, on May 3, 1934, her fiancé presented her with a hatbox, out of which poured a dalmatian puppy — Pongo. Her friend Joyce Kennedy said: "He would make a nice fur coat" — thereby becoming the unwitting prototype of Cruella De Vil. A brilliant she-devil, as Glenn Close said on *Woman's Hour* this week. As she pointed out, Cruella was not Disney's creation, but Dodie Smith's vivid invention, the quintessential modern witch.

The birth of the 15 puppies was entirely based on a real event, too. In 1942 Dodie and Alec, by now living in exile in California, had acquired two young dalmatians and decided that they should mate. They had been told to expect the usual eight or nine puppies, but counted in mounting horror as the tally became 15, exactly as described years later in her book, with one puppy born apparently lifeless until rubbed gently back to life. Dodie, who was obsessive about all animals, was never happier than when she had 17 spotted dogs around her. They kept one of the pups, so that when they returned to their small cottage at Finchingfield in 1954, they had three bounding dalmatians to join them after the detested quarantine had released them.

Dodie would have loved to have joined in the debate that has divided the dalmatian world ever since filming began. She would have been there on the set, supervising the care of the puppies which, as Disney emphasises, was superlative, every single puppy having an individual nanny/trainer. To anyone inspired to get a dalmatian by the undeniable appeal of the highly trained, sweet-natured dogs in the film, she would issue a warning.

The dalmatian, a carriage dog with enough stamina to run 20 miles a day, needs several hours of exercise. Its tail wags constantly, sending ornaments flying. It is muscular, and moves in leaps and bounds. It is a scavenger, needs lots of space, and constant human companionship.

This was fine for Dodie, who wrote at home with her dogs at her side, and with a husband to do the strenuous walking. But it is not the dog for a commuter in a small flat, or a young family in an open-plan home, or anyone disinclined to walk. Dalmatian owners have many stories about dogs rescued from such circumstances. The British Dalmatian Club has put out warning leaflets: "Seen the film? Want the dog? Wait!", hoping to deter the unsuitable or the unprepared. And even I, now just as besotted as Dodie, feel obliged to say: you have been warned.

● Dear Dodie *is published in paperback by Pimlico, £10*

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Mind your language, Mr Blair

Magnus Linklater on why new Labour has upset the Scots

When John Major uttered his famous eight-letter expletive to describe the right-wingers in his Cabinet, his stock in the country rose enormously. "Bastards" has a satisfactory ring to it. People knew what he meant and probably agreed with him. It certainly showed that he was human after all. Whether "wankers" will do the same for Tony Blair is more doubtful; indeed I'm not certain whether the Editor of *The Times* will permit its use in these columns at all. It's not really a *nice* word, is it? It has a sneering quality more suitable on the football terraces than on the lips of an Opposition leader.

In the interests of accuracy, however, I should report that the exact expression, made in an irritated aside during Mr Blair's trip to Scotland last weekend, was "Who are these unreconstructed wankers?" He was asking about members of the Scottish media, with whom he and his team are having a difficult time — not long ago his press aide dismissed one Scottish political correspondent as "anally retentive". The remark slipped out in an unguarded moment, after a scratchy interview with BBC Scotland. It reflected Mr Blair's frustration that in a part of the United Kingdom traditionally regarded as Labour's heartland, all is not going to plan. Several things have conspired to annoy him. A well-leaked "focus group" report, of the kind that Labour so often commissions, suggested that Scots find Mr Blair smarmy and untrustworthy. There is still a Jurassic layer of old Labour that obstinately refuses to be weathered away. And a suspicion remains that the leader is unsound on the central plank of his party's policy in Scotland, devolution. Tory gibes about the prospect of a "tartan tax" under Labour seem to have hit home with embarrassing frequency. All these things have combined to stain the image of what should be a supremely confident party.

Mr Blair is right to be cross. The focus group in question was not representative, for most of the genuine polling evidence suggests that the average voter north of the border thinks much the same of Tony Blair as people elsewhere. They may find the smile a little too ready and the policies rather too imprecise, but he retains their massed support. A 41 per cent lead over the Conservatives, after all, is not bad going, and out on the streets of a town like Ayr, one of the few Tory-held seats in Scotland, he was greeted last week with an enthusiasm that any of his rivals would die for.

None of this, he complains, is reflected in the questions he is asked when he ventures north. Instead, reporters seem to him to be fixated on the issue of devolution, on arcane matters about two-question referendums, on constitutional details which bother ordinary people not one whit.

Like Margaret Thatcher before him, he is amazed at Scottish commentators' apparent inability to understand the changes he has engineered within his party — changes that are perfectly well understood in the South. The frustration he feels is reflected by his press advisers, a truculent lot for whom the w-word is mild. They castigate correspondents for failing to get the message, and the correspondents, being Scottish and every bit as truculent, reply in kind.

There are lessons here that reach well beyond Scotland. Blaming the media is usually a sign of a party in trouble — but there is no reason why Labour should be in trouble with such a huge lead. If quarrels are being picked at this stage, when everything is flowing nicely, what might happen when the going gets rough? Should there not, instead of hectoring, be a greater attempt to explain the benefits of Labour policies, rather than assuming automatic support?

I don't doubt that much of the resentment shown by Scottish reporters stems from the arrogance they detect among new Labour's top team: an unwillingness to engage in argument, and a contempt for any perceptions different from their own.

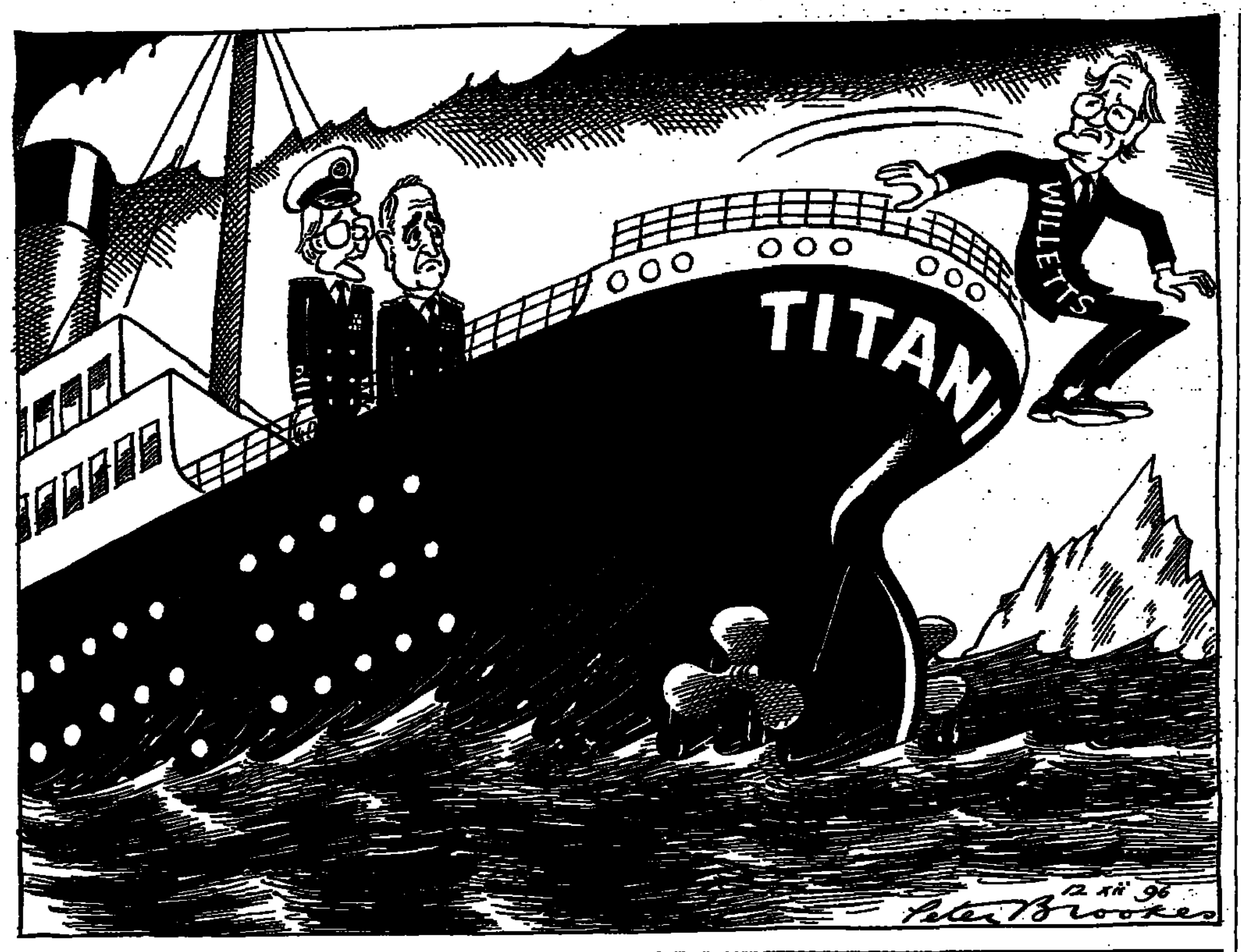
Blaming the media is a sign of a party in trouble

The same may be happening in Wales, where, in some ways, the divisions are still deeper. Here too Labour's plans are seen as imposed from the centre rather than being discussed locally. Here too there are differing views about the virtues of new Labour. One former minister, Ted Rowlands, is trying to amend the party's disciplinary code to allow a free vote among backbenchers on the referendum that has been proposed on devolution. He is unlikely to succeed, but the very attempt suggests a looming conflict that will require smooth diplomacy rather than aggression.

The final lesson is that, irritating as it must often seem, not every bit of the United Kingdom behaves in the same way. While new Labour considers it vital to shore up middle-class support in the South, other parts, such as the North of England, Wales and Scotland, have priorities which reflect more traditional Labour concerns than those Mr Blair is promoting.

Old Labour may be a term of abuse at party headquarters, but elsewhere it still commands affection and even respect. It may be infuriating for the party leaders to find old-style Labour officials and an unreconstructed media protecting territory which they think should by now have been ceded, but it is the reality and it has to be dealt with rather than subjected to abuse.

I suggest that a peace initiative might be a better way of handling this reality over the next few months than the hurling of invective. *Cet animal est très méchant*, as the French saying goes. *Quand on l'attaque, il se défend.*



Wall Street will crash

The American stock market is too high, because 30 million abortions have wiped out a generation of savers

I am connected with two investment newsletters, *Strategic Investment* in the United States and the *Fleet Street Letter* in Britain. Both have been warning for some time that Wall Street was dangerously high. Many other observers believe that too. Now Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has given the same warning. Even his authority has not stopped the market going up as before.

Through *Strategic Investment* I came to know Michael Belkin, who is one of the most respected of American investment analysts. He now writes a regular monthly column for the *Fleet Street Letter*. His latest column argues that Wall Street is dangerously high by historic standards. "By most traditional yardsticks, the US market is exceedingly overvalued. I recently unearthed excellent dividend yield data going back to 1871 in the National Bureau of Economic Research database. The current 2 per cent dividend yield is the lowest in 125 years (the average is 4.5 per cent)."

At present the Dow Jones industrial average stands at a little below 6,500, around its all-time high. If it were to retreat to the 125-year average dividend yield, it would fall to 2,900. Yet dividend yields of 4.5 per cent or higher are not remote memories. They were the norm in the decade 1975-85, as they had been in the 15-year period between 1940 and 1955. When Wall Street finally boils over and starts the descent into the next bear market, dividend yields will rise; it is almost inevitable that at some point they will rise to their long-term historic average.

If one looks at the low points of the major stock market crashes, dividend yields have, of course, been much higher than this 4.5 per cent historic average. In 1873, when Ulysses S. Grant began his second term, dividend yields reached 8.5 per cent; in 1884 they peaked at 7.2 per cent; in 1917, the year the United States entered the First World War, the peak was 9.3, and in 1932, the slump year when Franklin Roosevelt was elected President, it was 9.6 per cent. Even in later years it has gone quite high: in 1941, the year of Pearl Harbor to 9.5, in 1950 to 7.1 and as recently as 1982 to 6.2 per cent.

One can easily calculate what these dividend yields would do to the Dow Jones, given the present rate at which dividends are actually being paid. The trough of the 1873 Depression would give a Dow Jones figure of 1,500; 1884, 1,800; 1917, 1,400; 1932, 1,400; 1941, 1,400; 1950, 1,800; and 1982, 2,100.

In the past 125 years, the dividend yield on Wall Street stocks has on seven occasions risen to a level which would be reached again only if the stock market were now to fall by 70 per cent or more. On average this crisis level has occurred once every 18 years; it was last reached in 1982, which is only 14 years ago. This arithmetic is scary, even if the market does not want to take any notice of Alan Greenspan.

William Rees-Mogg

These calculations provide two indicators. If one takes dividend yields as the yardstick, the market could fall by more than 50 per cent before reaching the average, and by more than 70 per cent before reaching the crisis yield. That is not a prediction, but a measure of the risks of current investment on Wall Street.

One can put this argument another way. Over the coming years, American companies may be able to increase their earnings and dividends by as much as 10 per cent a year. That will be difficult, but is not impossible. If it were achieved, then total dividends would double in seven years, or by 2003. At that point, if the market had remained absolutely static, the dividend yield would not quite have regained its historic average. Wall Street is now discounting another seven years of unbroken growth.

There are some counter-arguments. A number of companies have ceased to use part of their cashflow to pay dividends, and use it instead to buy back stock. The dividend yield, it is said, is no longer as good an indicator as it once was. There is something in this argument, because it accounts for only a fraction of the decline in the dividend yield.

Reinforcing the bearish Greenspan case are the rise in America's current account deficit and in consumer debt. In the quarter which ended last September, the current account deficit reached $48 billion, the highest ever recorded, even higher than the last quarter of 1987. American exports actually fell, imports rose, the surplus on services fell and the deficit on investment income rose sharply.

The current account deficit works through to the stock market in a number of ways. It has to be financed, and that raises interest rates. It tends to weaken the dollar, which is itself inflationary. Falling exports and rising imports indicate the competition American industry has to face. Higher interest rates and lower profits are a recipe for falling stock markets.

At the same time, the explosion of American mutual fund purchases, which reached nearly $200 billion in the first ten months of 1996, has not been financed by savings. While the stock market was rising, Americans put money into mutual funds and increased their borrowing on credit cards. Indirectly, much of the new mutual fund money has been borrowed. Mutual fund investors have been attracted by the capital gains, not by the low-dividend income. When they stop increasing their holdings, the market will stop going up, there will no longer be any capital gains, and the 2 per cent dividend yield may seem wholly unacceptable.

Both the current account deficit and the growth of consumer credit reflect the central malformation of America's economy, which is that the consumer society has a spending but not a saving culture. This has been made much worse by the demographic imbalance between post-war births and the subsequent period of abortions. Between 1945 and 1965, America had a baby-boom as the soldiers came home and created their families. From 1973 onwards, the Supreme Court approval of abortion on demand in *Roe v Wade* led to the killing of some 30 million foetuses, who would otherwise have been the productive workers of the 21st century.

The baby-boom generation has failed to save for its own retirement, and the missing *Roe v Wade* generation is not there to balance the baby-boomers in retirement. At present the post-war generation is buying mutual funds, but is going into debt to do so. When they retire they will be dissaving on what will probably be a falling market. The Americans cannot expect the Japanese to continue to do the majority of their saving for them, and the Japanese are becoming increasingly reluctant to finance American debt.

At some point there is likely to be a buyers' strike in American mutual funds. Then the market will start to fall, some people will try to get out, and the market momentum will reverse. When this will happen, no one yet knows. I had expected earlier in this bull market, and have no claim to a special insight into market timing. But this cycle will follow the same pattern as past cycles; the forces which will push the market down are the mirror image of those which have been pushing it up.

When the bear market does come, how long is it likely to last? Again, there is no certain rule of timing. If one uses rising dividend yields as the measure of a bear market on Wall Street, there have been seven bear markets in the past 125 years, lasting 4, 18, 3, 5, 4, 9 and 3 years. The odds are that the next bear market will be another of the short ones, with a period of around four years, but these are also the sharp ones. The 18-year bear market from 1899 to 1917 gave investors plenty of time to adjust; the three-year bear market from 1929 to 1932 was the worst of all.

The peak of this Wall Street market may be quite close. Already long-term interest rates in American bond markets have been rising. At the start of 1996, American 30-year bonds yielded just under 6 per cent; they now yield close to 6.5 per cent. Falling dividend yields with rising stock prices, matched by rising bond yields with falling bond prices, are a classic Wall Street signal of storms to come. That was the pattern of the 1987 crash; it could happen again in 1997.

A David yields to Goliaths

Willetts outclasses his critics, insists **Bruce Anderson**

David Willetts has made a sensible decision: a short-term sacrifice which will work to his long-term advantage. When he first ran into trouble, not all his Tory colleagues were upset. He was *not* universally liked then, but his subsequent behaviour has won him popularity and respect.

Mr Willetts is an able fellow with an outstanding academic record. Briefly a Treasury civil servant, he was Nigel Lawson's private secretary when Lawson was Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Willetts went on to the No 10 policy unit and then successfully ran the Centre for Policy Studies before being selected for a safe seat. Four years after reaching the Commons, he was the first of his intake to become a minister of state.

It was a rapid and impressive rise, and as such it attracted envy. When Mr Willetts arrived at the Centre for Policy Studies some of the board members obviously thought that they had hired a bright young researcher who would mole away in a back room. Instead, he started attracting the personal publicity which helped to launch him into Parliament. This aroused resentment, and Peregrine Worsthorne has run an eccentric campaign against Mr Willetts in *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Promotion to minister led to a further outbreak of jealousy. Some said he was a naïve intellectual with no experience of real politics or understanding of real people. He was also accused of being too pleased with himself. The second charge was unfair. For such a bright chap Mr Willetts has a surprisingly equable temperament. He also has a happy home life; his wife Sarah is a promising painter. Life has been kind to him, and when he is enjoying himself it shows — but he likes others to enjoy themselves too.

There was some substance in the accusations of political naïvety. That is why he was made a government whip; it was felt that he needed to further his political education by exposure to the rougher aspects of the trade. But his stint in the whips' office was never meant to be more than an interlude. His strengths lie in helping the Tories to formulate and win intellectual arguments.

None of this satisfied his detractors, so when they heard that he was up before the beak, a number of Tory MPs relished the thought. His performance in front of the Standards and Privileges Committee persuaded most of them that they were wrong. He was at once respectful and tenacious, staying calm even when his questioners became heated, taking the proceedings seriously long after they had ceased to be so.

The charges arose from a scribbled whips' office memo, which in any previous Parliament would have been regarded as a private paper. Mr Willetts readily concedes that it was a poor example of a whips' office note, in that in contained too much about what he thought and too little about what others had said. It has now been subjected to the sort of textual analysis that could be justified only for a passage from the Bible or Shakespeare.

The committee's criticisms hinged on the word "want" in the phrase "wants advice". Did Mr Willetts mean want as in needs, or wants as in seeks? As a whip, Mr Willetts must have written hundreds of such notes; why on earth should he be expected to remember what he meant?

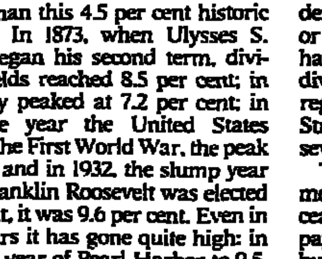
The committee's performance was unworthy of Parliament. Ann Taylor was intent on party advantage, while Dale Campbell-Savours, as usual, was in the grip of his own obsessions. Quentin Davies, a clever man without a government job, could hardly bear to be in the same room as a clever man with a job. Mr Davies was once fined £1,500 because his sheep had been left to starve; he blamed the shepherd. Even so, he was responsible for a graver error of judgment than Mr Willetts.But Mr Davies has never been known for his sense of proportion.

Among the committee's other members was Ernie Ross. No one could accuse him of radiating *joie de vivre*. A leading member of the Tam McGrievance wing of the Scottish Labour Party, Mr Ross was barely capable of asking an intelligible question.

Tony Newton, the chairman, was intent on producing a unanimous report to preserve his committee's reputation. That too was an error of judgment: there was none worth preserving. A committee that leaks and is driven by partisan considerations is incapable of acting in a quasi-judicial role.

David Willetts might have fought back, but in the present jaundiced mood, it would have been unwise. Resigning should not only help to expose the unjust verdict against him, but should confirm the good impression among his colleagues of coolness under fire. His career will prosper, which is more than the committee deserves to do. It exists to uphold the integrity of Parliament, but it has violated the very standards it ought to have upheld. Its report is not only a breach of the privilege of fair hearing, but a contempt of Parliament.

The author is political columnist for The Spectator.



Happy family

CHRISTMAS CARDS from Diana, Princess of Wales, bear a picture of her children, Princes William and Harry, posing with their cousins, the Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice. The photograph was taken when the children were holidaying with their mums in France this summer.

The family picture highlights the strength of the current alliance between the Princess and the Duchess of York, two divorcées who have pulled few punches over their views on courtiers at Buckingham Palace. "The picture of the four children together explains itself," said the Princess's private office, flatly.

The Duke and Duchess of York have approved the use of the picture, but are unlikely to use it as their Christmas card, which has yet to go out. The duchess was in New York yesterday, negotiating a multi-million-pound deal to appear as a chat show host, and squeezed in the Jay Leno show.

The Princess, on the other hand, was recovering yesterday from her fleeting New York visit. In the morning, she visited her acupuncturist in Camden.

● *Mystery surrounds the identity ancient Scottish barony of Blair, dating from the middle of the 12th century, has been snapped up by an anonymous buyer for a sum approaching £60,000 before it could come to auction. A present from Cherie?*

Evans sake

AN EFFERVESCENCE of Evanses gathered on Tuesday evening at a party thrown by the Welsh Secretary William Hague. As MPs Roger Evans (Monmouth) and Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley) were squaring up to David Evans (Welwyn Hatfield), another couple of David Evanses emerged: Evans, the candidate for Neath, and Evans the "lost deposit", candidate for Newport East.

Had the two MPs arrived with their wives, guests would surely have been in seventh Evans.

"It's not a model: it's the

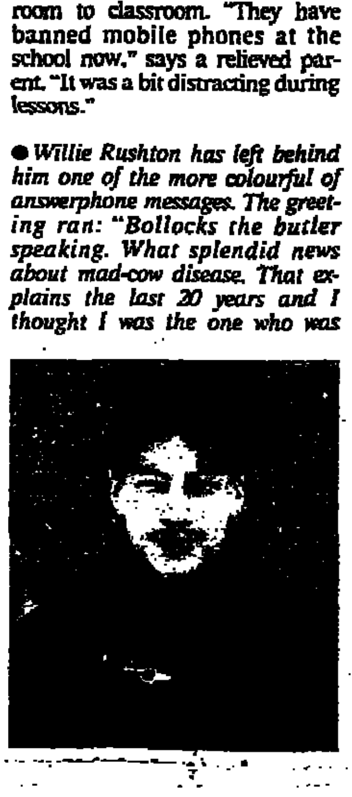
With love

BORIS YELTSIN JR, the hairy-lipped grandson of the Russian President who was told to remove his moustache to comply with school rules, has given his six bodyguards the slip at Millfield School in Somerset to find himself a girlfriend.

Young Boris, who is usually surrounded by burly former KGB with a girl from the school swimming team. "She is jolly fit," says an envious admirer.

Boris can no longer contact his lady as readily as he might once have done. Courtship at the school has recently been conducted by mobile phone, often from classroom to classroom. "They have banned mobile phones at the school now," says a relieved parent. "It was a bit distracting during lessons."

● *Willie Rushton has left behind him one of the more colourful of answerphone messages. The greeting ran: "Bollocks the butler speaking. What splendid news about mad-cow disease. That explains the last 20 years and I thought I was the one who was barmy." The message continued: "Please leave a spring-like message after the moo . . . Moooooooo!"*



No flagging

QUEEN ELIZABETH the Queen Mother was in tremendous spirits at a reception at St James's Palace on Tuesday to celebrate the running of the 150th Martell Grand National next year. She spent a good hour walking about chatting to guests, and she plans another big party next week for her staff. Strangest sight of the evening was Andrew Parker Bowles, hitching up the legs of his suit to show off his pins. "Look at them," he said to the bewilderment of onlookers, "the strongest calves in London." For stamina and fitness, however, no one came close to Her Majesty.

Wax lyrical

BARONESS FLATHER, the first Asian woman in the House of Lords, has ticked off Madame Tussaud's for its slovenly dress sense. On a recent visit with her two great nieces to see the waxworks, she noticed something amiss with Indira Gandhi. "The sari is not draped properly," she pointed out, "and is of a style that Mrs Gandhi would never have worn."

As a frequent visitor to the Gan-

Indira Gandhi: new sari?

knows what she is talking about.

Tussaud's has hauled Indira out of the exhibition and the wardrobe designer is to receive stern instruction from the baroness in the "Delhi drape". "It may well be that he does not have the appropriate sari and accessories, in which case I may have to take him shopping," she says.

P.H.S

هكذا من الاصل

THE DECENT THING

Willetts was right to resign rather than resist

In the end it was more Jeffrey Archer than Jane Austen. Having initially indicated that he would resist calls for his departure, apologise with all due contrition and place himself at the mercy of his parliamentary colleagues, David Willetts instead chose resignation. His swift decision produced a drama at Westminster and an embarrassing loss for John Major's Government.

It is difficult not to feel some sympathy for Mr Willetts. A politician of intelligence and ability, he has been brought to book less for what he actually did — which few in Westminster would claim was novel or even especially outrageous — than that public light fell upon the usually invisible world of the Whips Office. Conservative backbenchers, indeed some Labour members, felt that others had stayed in office despite perhaps more serious malpractice. Mr Willets has, to some extent, paid the price of the reluctance of others under John Major to surrender their red boxes with due decorum.

On that basis the Paymaster General might have mustered some sort of defence. A man who claims to use the word want "in the Jane Austen sense" could, in his defence, have entered a lively linguistic debate on the best meaning of the term "dissemble". However, Mr Willets rightly recognised that the report cast serious doubts upon his account of the note he produced immediately after his conversation with Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith. Although party and parliamentary managers wanted him to fight his corner and remain in office, no minister of the Crown could comfortably continue while his reputation was in dispute. Mr Willetts deserves credit for recognising that and leaving with grace and speed.

Much attention will focus on the role of Quentin Davies MP. His brutal cross-examination of Mr Willetts astonished fellow Tories. The widespread, possibly unfairly cynical, assumption has been to make malice his motivation. That may have some truth, but is not the explanation for the chain of events that followed. The whole committee felt that it could not "accept much of the memorandum submitted" by Mr Willetts and that he had "substantially aggravated the original offence". Those sentences proved fatal.

The treatment of Mr Willets was the opening test for the Committee on Standards and Privileges. It was created in the aftermath of the Nolan report to reinforce public confidence in the House of Commons. The forceful tone adopted in this document, and the strenuous efforts made to reach unanimous agreement on its contents, suggest that the committee is serious about treating its remit with respect and is capable of acting above partisanship. Had divergent majority and minority reports been issued, along simple party lines, few would have had any faith in the new arrangements.

It is good that the Nolan arrangements have not yet failed. It is not yet proven that they have succeeded. In many respects the Willetts affair was straightforward. The case involved one piece of paper, consisting of rather explicit text whose authenticity was not in dispute. The only room for argument concerned its interpretation and even that, as Mr Willetts's obvious discomfort in public testimony displayed, was limited. Few future cases will be that simple. The whole Hamilton episode that will now consume the committee is a much greater challenge. The accusations there are much more complex and their substance is far more serious.

If the Committee on Standards and Privileges can produce a bipartisan assessment, and similarly coherent conclusion, in these circumstances then it will be entitled to significant credit. The strange affair of Mr Willetts suggest that is at least possible. It is also essential if Lord Nolan is not to be recalled to *recommend far more radical* remedial measures.

SITTING ON THEIR ARMOURY

The prospects for peace are bleaker than ever

Hope springs eternal in the battered breast of John Hume. Later today the SDLP leader should meet Gerry Adams in an effort to secure another IRA ceasefire. There is something of William Dobbin in Mr Hume's wooing of the republicans in *defiance of all evidence of their integrity.* Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness, has dismissed prospects of an IRA ceasefire as "virtually non-existent". His words were bleak *confirmation of* what security sources had already detected. Two *weeks ago the* RUC *discoverd* 2,400 lbs of explosive hidden in the Armagh countryside. *Earlier this week, the Garda reported* IRA military activity on the border at a pitch not seen *since the August 1994* ceasefire. Far from enjoying peace this Christmas, Ulster seems *likely to* be facing a *difficult* new year.

Republican apologists argue that the IRA has no choice but war because Sinn Fein has been denied the right to attend talks on Northern Ireland's future on the same terms as other parties. But Sinn Fein has been asking for a privileged place at the talks table — sitting pretty on its armoury. Sinn Fein would not call the complete ceasefire that might have won it a place in negotiations unless it could be certain the IRA retained not just its weaponry, but its full fighting capacity. If Sinn Fein were forced to compete on the same basis as other political groups it would command barely more attention than the Alliance Party. It is the quality of the IRA's artillery, not Sinn Fein's analysis, that concentrates minds.

No one appreciates that fact more than the men of the IRA's Army Council. During the last ceasefire they trained, targeted enemies, recruited and resupplied their forces. New bomb factories were established in London after the IRA had proclaimed a "complete cessation of violence". Even as the British Government *prepared* to relax its position on the decommissioning of paramilitary *weapons, the* IRA was *developing* new mortars and the republican leader Brian *Keenan was assuring supporters that the* only decomissioning they would see was *that of "the British State in Ireland".*

Having been duped once by republican *intentions* the British *Government* was wise to insist that it be assured of the sincerity of any *new* ceasefire before *admitting* Sinn Fein to talks. The Irish Prime Minister, John *Bruton, can direct no criticism of substance* at Britain's position. Even Nancy Soderberg, President Clinton's deputy assistant for National Security, who has given Gerry Adams the benefit of past doubts, has endorsed current British caution.

The Northern *Ireland* Secretary has been criticised this week for having to plunder his housing and education budgets to spend more on security. Sir Patrick Mayhew would undoubtedly prefer to cut his cake differently, but he is left with no option. The nature of current IRA activity suggests that attacks on Government targets in Northern Ireland are imminent. Although the security forces have severely disrupted IRA operations on the British mainland, it is also possible that republicans will strike at significant targets outside Ulster. These are not the actions of a movement that has ever been sincere about peace, consent or compromise, but the behaviour of an organisation wedded to victory through violence. Rather than talking to Mr Adams today Mr Hume's energies would be better directed to working with those whose commitment to democracy is not in doubt.

SPREAD THE JAM

London needs alternative modes and nodes of transport

London's commuters are a resilient breed, their patience tested and *seldom* found wanting in the daily struggle to work. But even the *hardiest* must have begun to doubt their sanity on Tuesday night, as a series of incidents triggered by a lorry *lodging itself* in the Blackwall Tunnel created the biggest traffic-jam in the City and East End for 16 years. As the queues edged forward, as tempers rose and dinners spoilt, a single truth became plain to all. A system that can collapse so dramatically as a result of a single incident is a system crying out for fresh thought.

Transport has always been based on an economic and not a biological paradigm. *Economics seeks* the lowest-cost basket, and puts all its eggs in it. Biology relies on a built-in *redundancy, providing* a range of different ways of achieving the same result: when one way fails, there are *others readily* available. Thanks to the Victorians, Londoners still have these alternatives, in the *shape* of train and Tube, but they have been neglected for decades. As a result they remain the best option only for those who have no car, or nowhere to park the one they *do have. For the rest,* driving to work makes economic sense, and that is the only sense *the system acknowledges.*

But even if good alternatives were available, *transport could not* function effectively in a biological sense in the absence of information. Those lucky enough to know early enough on Tuesday that the *tunnel was* blocked *had* the *opportunity of* making alternative arrangements, abandoning *their cars and making the journey home* by other means. In a world where information *is available at the touch of a computer* key, and roads are frequently scanned by cameras, *nobody has seen fit to link the* two and provide instant information about congestion. A "congestion *index*" for every major road, altering minute by minute during the day, accessible by telephone or Internet, would allow drivers to plan their journeys. *Some systems* inside cars are beginning to meet this need, at a cost; but at present most motorists have only the radio travel reports, which never reveal a jam until the driver is already part of it.

It is tempting to call for road improvements to prevent traffic collapses like Tuesday's, *and some simple changes* would certainly help. A bigger tunnel *under* the *Thames, or a more foolproof* way of preventing oversize lorries from getting stuck in it, suggest themselves. *But* ultimately any network of roads feeding into a major city like London will include nodes where the traffic is squeezed and where jams are inevitable. Even the human bloodstream, a marvel of smooth-flowing distribution, suffers a *risk* of thrombosis. The balance between road and rail needs to be improved — as well as the traffic flow of information and truth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prospects for UK in or out of EMU

From Mrs Gillian Bardinet

Sir, It is ironic that the patience of the Tory party should have run out at the precise moment when the EMU debate has begun in earnest here in France.

Three weeks ago former President Giscard d'Estaing, himself father of the original ecu, called into question the franc/mark parity, and minds have further been focused by concern over the precise meaning of the stability pact. On December 5 *Figaro Economique* reported that the Europhile Budget Minister, Alain Lamassoure, had said on the previous day:

> We want a rigorous scheme but ... one which would acknowledge national sovereignty and recognise that budgetary and fiscal policy must remain within the domain of national parliaments. We must speak to our parliaments before speaking to our partners.

The French newspapers are full of articles by economists and academics questioning the advisability of rushing headlong into EMU when the deflationary results of European *monetary policy have become clear to all.* As a few months ago in Britain, talk of the gold standard is making a comeback, linked here of course to the name of Charles de Gaulle. More interestingly, there is serious re-examination of the common currency or hard ecu linked, in this case, to the name of the newly respected John Major.

It may no longer be unrealistic to *see the advent of a European currency* as a national corollary of European stability and prosperity, based on the best elements of the British example.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN BARDINET
(Maître de Conférences),
Institute of Political Studies,
27 Rue St Guillaume, Paris.
December 8.

From Mr Gavin Drake

Sir, *In his Budget speech* (reports, November 27) Kenneth Clarke said that Britain would *meet* the Maastricht criteria for entry into a European single currency in 1997. He said:

> Our option whether to join or stay out of a single currency, based on British national interest, remains a genuine choice for the next Parliament to exercise, when the time comes.

This complements the Prime Minister's intention to "wait and see" and to "rule nothing out" as far as monetary union is concerned.

This all sounds very good, but, according to some EU members' interpretation, unless Britain rejoins the exchange-rate mechanism by the end of this month, then we will not be able to join EMU with the first wave on January 1, 1999.

If the Government really intends to *wait and see, to rule nothing out nor* in and to decide at the time, then it must take us into the exchange-rate mechanism without delay. Otherwise it will be ruling out monetary union and preventing the decision being taken later, at least as far as the first wave is concerned.

Yours sincerely,
GAVIN DRAKE,
32 Catherton, Telford, Shropshire.
December 10.

From Mr Derek Sawyer

Sir, It is glib of William Rees-Mogg to assert that "Almost all the relevant facts are known already" regarding a decision to join the single currency (article, December 9).

On the same day your Industrial Editor reports (Business News) the *Director-General of the CBI as insisting* that the pro-EMU and anti-EMU arguments remain complex and balanced. At the end of the same piece, Lloyds Bank is reported as saying that there is widespread fear and confusion among small businesses about the effects of a single European currency and, according to the managing director of business banking at Lloyds TSB, many small firms "do not fully *understand the practical implications* of a single currency ... whether the UK joins or not".

What is needed is clear statements on the pros and cons of what Rees-Mogg rightly calls "the biggest economic decision since Britain joined the Common Market". The public deserves facts, not sound-bites from our politicians of whatever party.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK SAWYER,
155 Westfields,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
December 10.

From Mr Hywel James

Sir, Anyone who has found the season's weather depressing will have been *plunged* into *further gloom* by Robert Scheuttinger's suggested briefing *note on Britain and Europe for* a US President elected in 2004 (article, *December 5*).

The idea that the Tories will still be in power, *let alone the thought* of a Portillo premiership, was dreadful when I *was just beginning to contemplate* Christmas and a bit of good cheer.

Europhobia of this intensity demands a helpline. Perhaps Esther Rantzen could take up the idea.

Yours etc,
HYWEL JAMES,
Spencer House, Coleford, Devon.
December 5.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Surgeons advertising to bypass GPs

From Mr Harvey White, FRCS

Sir, While agreeing with the Chairman of the Patients Association (letter, December 4) that it is important to know about the basis of medical referrals and their outcomes, *The Medical Directory (with the approval of the* General Medical Council) appears to be approaching the *problem* in the wrong way.

It is inviting surgical specialists to declare for publication the number of procedures carried out. This is both dangerous and misleading without audit or peer review. Like Sir Rodney Sweetnam (letter, November 26; see also letter, December 10), I believe *that general practitioners should* continue to be the independent regulators of the flow of patients.

In the private sector, an additional problem arises from the major insurers setting themselves up as both the purchasers and providers of healthcare. They insure the patients, and effectively attempt to hire the surgeons *by drawing up lists of* preferred practitioners for the hospitals which *they own (or in which they have a* large financial interest), making no allowance for where they practise or for their experience. This is in my view a dangerous restrictive practice.

While accepting that changes must take place, I feel that manipulative insurance companies and the introduction of advertising will, in the long term, work to the disadvantage of *patients and to the detriment of the* profession.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY WHITE,
149 Harley Street, W1.
December 6.

From Dr Trefor Vaughan

Sir, As a consulting chartered psychologist, I often get clients who come to *me with sexual* or psychiatric problems which lie outside the field of counselling and require *specialist* treatment. In theory they should go to their GP and be referred to appropriate specialists but they avoid this because they know that their case will be recorded in GP notes, and may prejudice later applications for insurance or certain classes of occupation. So they try to find specialist help directly and, failing, ask *me to help them.*

How many unknown cases like this deteriorate for want of early diagnosis and treatment? And would it not be far better if such people could seek specialist help directly — and discreetly?

Yours faithfully,
TREFOR VAUGHAN,
10 Beechwood Avenue,
Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.
December 4.

Support for disabled

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Tucker Carlson writes: "Life for most people with Down's [syndrome] has become strikingly normal" [article, "When a life is worth living", November 29; see also letter, December 5]. This may be true for some, but I doubt if it applies to most.

Unfortunately there is still a social *stigma attached* to those with *Down's* syndrome who survive beyond in*fancy — now the majority. Not all* parents have the ability to cope with a child so handicapped, despite all the support that may be available and for some foetuses affected by Down's syndrome abortion may be the lesser of two evils.

The will and the capacity to deal with the extra mental and physical requirements of a disabled child is more than some parents can accept, or be expected to. All mothers-to-be want a normal child. Anything else may *undermine the family structure,* causing disruption in the lives of siblings, and *unmitigated stress* to their parents. In turn such stress affects the life of the handicapped child. No one who is familiar with this scenario can call it normal — let alone strikingly normal.

However, I salute all parents who cope with the prospect of many years of caring for their DS son or daughter.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire.

From Miss Hilary Lloyd

Sir, I am a carer who looks after a very severely disabled young woman of 26. She was born with cerebral palsy and is blind with no speech. She has no voluntary movement and is totally dependent on those who support her.

Until she was 19 she had ample help with her education, health care and general wellbeing but when she became an adult it was a different story. *As her disabilities became harder to* manage, so the facilities available to her diminished. Services for disabled adults are totally inadequate.

Parents of children with disabilities face a very bleak future unless the disabilities are mild enough to allow reasonable independence. Modern medicines may mean children with severe disabilities live into adulthood, but resources are not necessarily available to support them. In fighting for a better deal for children we must not *forget their long-term* prospects.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY LLOYD,
9 Winsley Road,
Northern Moor, Manchester.

Lord's media centre

From Mr David Grant

Sir, It may be perfectly reasonable to have a media centre at Lord's cricket ground, but it is entirely unreasonable to build it at the proposed location at the Nursery End (report, September 7; Sports letters, September 14, 23).

Perhaps the most striking, and certainly the most precious, visual aspect *of Lord's is the view of the trees from* the Pavilion towards the Nursery End. That is what makes Lord's so different from most if not all other Test grounds. It was precisely to preserve this view that the late Gubby Allen fought so hard to *ensure* that the Compton and Edrich stands were built in such a way that they did not form *a continuous visual* barrier.

Allen's was a doughty and (literally) *far-sighted stance. Siting the* proposed media centre in the middle of the gap between the Compton and Edrich stands will defeat the whole purpose of *what has been achieved to date.*

One of the first principles of good *design of buildings is to have regard* to the space between them, as much as to the buildings themselves. This scheme offends against that principle, and as a result one of the most precious aspects of Lord's will be lost.

It cannot be beyond the skill and imagination of the engineers, etc, to locate the necessary electronic equipment in another building (eg, in the new Grandstand) or to use part of the Pavilion *itself for such purposes.*

The special general meeting which, *together with a postal ballot, will* decide this issue is to be held on December 16. *Members should reject the* proposal.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GRANT,
13 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.
December 5.

Labour and Falklands

From Mr Tony Lloyd,
MP for Stretford (Labour)

Sir, Your report "Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour" (December 9) misrepresents Labour policy on the islands. British policy towards the Falklands will not change when the Labour government takes power.

On a recent visit to the Falklands I reaffirmed Labour's position that the *sovereignty of the islands is a matter* for the people who live there. I wel*comed the decision* of the islands' Legislative Council to issue visas to the families of the Argentinians who died during the 1982 war as a humane and compassionate gesture.

I also recognised that the decision as to who should be admitted to the islands is a matter for the islanders and not for the British Government. A Labour government will *not* be "determined to nudge them into closer relations with Argentina".

It is clear that the recent round of oil exploration talks have benefited from discussions between the islanders and representatives of the Argentinian and British Governments. Similarly, *the successful completion of the* fisheries talks depends on reaching a mutually acceptable agreement between the islanders and the Argentinian and British Governments. It is therefore in the interests of the islanders to examine how far they should go in normalising relations with Argentina in these and other areas. This is not, however, *something Labour in government* could impose on them.

Yours faithfully,
TONY LLOYD (Opposition
Foreign Affairs Spokesman),
House of Commons.

Saints approved

From Mrs Carol Twinch

Sir, With dismay I read of the "discovery" that St Disen did not exist and is a *muddled spelling mistake* for St Denis (report, December 2).

But the parishioners of Bradninch should take heart: St Disen is otherwise *known as Disibod,* who founded the Monastery of Disibodenberg near Bingen, Germany, in about AD 700. It was there that the 12th-century St Hildegard, the first of the great German mystics, wrote *A life of St Disen.* In their *Book of Saints,* published in 1947, the Ramsgate Monks awarded the Disibod legend an "approved" status and a feast date of September 8.

Sometimes, of course, sceptics do have it: in the course of research into the legend of the 10th-century St Walstan, I came across the French St Decimil, who was honoured as a Roman martyr after the *discovery* of his tombstone. Only later was the "tomb" *found to be part of a Roman milestone* erected to direct the legions marching *into Gaul.*

Yours sincerely,
CAROL TWINCH
(Author, *In Search of St Walstan,*
Media Associates of Norwich, 1995),
Hill Farm, Rendham,
Saxmundham, Suffolk.
December 3.

Inspiring example of Douglas Bader

From Lady Dundas

Sir, I have watched the last two programmes in the Channel 4 series *Secret Lives* with dismay. In each case the producers have concentrated on comparatively unimportant facets of the lives of Lord Beaverbrook and Sir Douglas Bader (report, December 9; television review, December 10) thereby creating a negative and misleading impression of their characters.

It so happened that both these men had a profound influence on my late husband — Hugh Dundas.

Firstly, he flew with Bader from September 1940 until August 8, 1941, when Bader was brought down over France. After their first meeting my husband wrote: "He showed me quite clearly by his example the way in which a man should behave in time of war" and: "Here was a man made in the mould of Francis Drake — a man to be *followed,* a man who would win."

My husband was aged 20 at the time, had been shot down a month before and "viewed the prospect of combat with real inner fear". Bader's leadership and courage enabled him to continue flying Spitfires in action until the end of the war in Europe, and Bader remained a great and true friend until his death.

Secondly, after the war my husband worked for 13 years for Express Newspapers. At one time, as leader writer on *The Daily Express,* he was in almost daily contact with Lord Beaverbrook on the telephone. My husband admired him enormously and, despite disagreeing with him and leaving Express Newspapers in the late Sixties, he remained a staunch supporter of a great newspaperman and was proud to have worked for him.

Everyone has faults, no one is per*fect, but it seems that the denigration* of great men is a symptom of the sickness of our times.

Yours faithfully,
ROSAMOND DUNDAS,
55 Iverna Court, W8.
December 10.

From General Sir Robert Ford

Sir, On one of my visits to the wounded in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, in 1972 when I was Commander, *Land Forces Northern Ireland, I went* to see a young Guardsman who had lost the greater part of both legs as a result of IRA actions.

It was my custom never to enter wards if relatives or close friends were in attendance. But on this occasion I was misinformed and found his parents with him. I withdrew immediately, but when I consulted the medical staff who were looking after him, I was *made aware that this tragic* young man urgently needed more *than medical assistance if he was to* overcome the trauma of his condition.

That evening I decided to write to Douglas Bader, whom I had never met at that time, asking him if he could find time to send the Guardsman a letter of encouragement.

Some two weeks later, having had no response, I went to see the soldier again. He told me that one afternoon about ten days previously, Bader had *suddenly walked into the ward and* spent more than an hour with him. I later discovered that not only was no one at the hospital aware of this impending visit, but that he had flown over unannounced in the morning, returning in the afternoon.

The medical team all agreed that in that one hour, Douglas Bader had transformed that young man's morale and outlook and given him real hope *and inspiration.*

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FORD,
c/o The Army Benevolent Fund,
41 *Queen's Gate, SW7.*
December 10.

From Mr Ted Hailstone

Sir, Who cares if Douglas Bader shot down four enemy aircraft or 40, the *fact that he was there is good enough* for me.

Yours faithfully,
TED HAILSTONE,
Shelly Farm Cottages, Shelly Lane,
Monkspath, Solihull, West Midlands.
November 10.

Scott deselection

From Mr D. P. Hannon

Sir, I am sure that Simon Jenkins appreciates that the process, which he calls undemocratic ("Whipped and scorned", December 4), by which Sir Nicholas Scott ceased to be a prospec*tive parliamentary candidate* was more or less the same as that which made him one in the first place?

Yours faithfully
D. P. HANNON,
Breakers, Atlantic Terrace,
New Polzeath, Wadebridge, Cornwall

Value for money?

From Mr Jack Aspinall

Sir, It may indeed be that tens of thousands of people poured into the Metro Centre near Gateshead when it opened on Sunday and spent an average of £125 compared with last year's £110 (report, December 9), but did they get any more for their money?

Yours faithfully
JACK ASPINALL,
72 Woodcote Valley Road,
Purley, Surrey.
December 9.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 11: His Excellency Dr Milos Radulovic was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from Yugoslavia to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Radulovic was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen received His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

His Excellency Mr Janis Lusis and Mrs Lusis were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Latvia to the Court of St James's.

Sir Chares Maclean of Dunconnel was received by The Queen and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Thistle worn by his father, the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnel.

This afternoon, Her Majesty opened the New Headquarters of the Institute of Physics, 76 Portland Place, London W1, and was received by the President (Dr Brian Manley).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 11: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon attended a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Animal Health Trust, this evening attended a Dinner at the Banqueting House at Whitehall, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 11: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning held a report back meeting for members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the European Parliament at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, this afternoon gave a Luncheon at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, later attended an international board meeting at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a concert and dinner for supporters of The Princess Margarita of Romania Trust at St James's Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 11: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the British-American-Canadian Ball held in aid of the British-American-Canadian Associates' educational programme, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, W1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE:

December 11: The Duke of Kent, President, the Engineering Council, this morning attended a Senate Meeting at the Institue of Materials, Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the London Philharmonic, this evening attended a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will open the new Salvation Army Westminster Centre at 18 Great Peter Street, SW1, at 3.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, as Patron of the Courtauld Institute of Art Trust, will visit an exhibition of the work of William Chambers and have luncheon at Somerset House at 12.50.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend the meeting of the board of trustees at the Hotel Inter-Continental at 11.00 followed by a carers' day reception. The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Basic Skills Agency, will attend the end of year reception at Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street at 5.00; and, as President of the Missions to Seamen, will attend a carol concert at Merchant Taylors' Hall at 7.20.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Leukaemia Research Fund, will attend a carol concert at the Royal Albert Hall at 7.00.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel, 1st Viscount Hood, Admiral, Butleigh, Somerset, 1724; Erasmus Darwin, physician, Elston, Nottinghamshire, 1731; Anna Seward (the Swan of Lichfield), poet and novelist, Eyam Rectory, Derbyshire, 1747; Sir William Beechey, painter, Burford, Oxfordshire, 1753; William Lloyd Garrison, militant Abolitionist, Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1805; Gustave Flaubert, novelist, Rouen, 1821; John Richard Green, historian, Oxford, 1837; Edvard Munch, painter, Loten, Norway, 1863; Edward G. Robinson, actor, Bucharest, 1893.

DEATHS: John Craig, Kirk leader, Edinburgh, 1600; Albrecht von Haller, botanist and poet, Berne, 1777; Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, engineer, London, 1849; Jean Louis Agassiz, naturalist, Cambridge, 1873; Robert Browning, poet, Venice, 1889; Douglas Fairbanks Sr, film actor, Santa Monica, California, 1939; Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1940-49, Wellington, 1950; Tallulah Bankhead, actress, New York, 1968.

Marconi gave the first public demonstration of radio at Toynbee Hall, London, 1896.

Christopher Cockerell patented his prototype of the hovercraft, 1955.

Kenya became a republic, 1964.

Cranach's early Paris fetches close to £2m

By John Shaw

A GERMAN Renaissance masterpiece, *The Judgement of Paris* by Lucas Cranach the Elder, sold for £1.981 million at Sotheby's in London yesterday.

The 16th-century work was bought anonymously and was the centrepiece of a strong group of early German pictures in the firm's major winter Old Master option. The pre-sale estimate was in the region of £1.5 million.

The painting, an oil on panel dated to about 1512-14, is the artist's earliest version of a subject he returned to many times over the following 30 years. It had been in the same family ownership since the 19th century.

Cranach avoids the classical source of the story to make Paris a knight in armour who loses his way while hunting and then, in a dream, is asked to choose which of three goddesses is the fairest. He refuses to do so until they disrobe. The depiction of him as a knight may have been intended to allude to the triumph of love over war.

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553) was one of the pioneers of German Renaissance painting and a contempory of Albrecht Dürer. He became court painter to the electors of Saxony and most of his pictures, including that sold yesterday, are signed with a winged dragon that he adopted as his device.

The Judgement of Paris sold at Sotheby's is the artist's earliest version of the subject

The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence celebrate the 4th anniversary of their marriage today.

Birthdays today

Miss Tracy Austin, former tennis player, 36; Mr Lionel Blair, dancer and broadcaster, 65; Lord Borwick, 79; Major-General Sir Rupert Brazier-Creagh, 87; Mr Will Carling, rugby player, 31; Miss Denise Coffey, actress, director and writer, 60; Mr Jasper Conran, fashion designer, 37; Mr Kenneth Cranham, actor, 52; the Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP, 66; Mr William Ebbert, former chairman and managing director, Vauxhall Motors, 54; Mr David Elsworth, racehorse trainer, 57; Mr Emerson Fittipaldi, racing driver, 50; Miss Connie Francis, singer, 58; Mr Roy Grantham, trade unionist, 70; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, former director, WRAF, 81; Mr Cliff Holden, painter, 77; Dr Philip Ledger, Principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 59; Mr Chris Mullin, MP, 49; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer and actor, 81; the Right Rev Denis Wakeling, former Bishop of Southwell, 78; Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 55.

Armourers and Brasiers

The Company of Armourers and Brasiers' 1996 Royal Armoured Corps Troop Leaders' Prizes have been awarded to Second Lieutenants T.J. Bateman, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, T.A.D. Cape, Life Guards, M. Powell, Royal Tank Regiment, and J.A.K. Walker, Queen's Royal Lancers.

Heritage facing 'deplorable' cuts

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

LOCAL authority reorganisation next spring will lead to serious losses in our heritage, according to the Council for British Archaeology.

It says that the abolition of county archaeological posts, as funds are redirected to unitary authorities, will destroy investigative and scholarly resources built up over many years. This at a time when the ending of the recession is expected to result in a development boom.

"The forthcoming damage is deplorable," Professor Richard Morris, the council's director, says in its newsletter, *British Archaeology*. "Supervision of planning applications affecting archaeological sites, historic buildings and conservation areas may virtually cease in some counties."

Among the worst-hit areas will be Bedfordshire, which today has an integrated heritage conservation service providing specialist advice, and a sites and monuments record built up over decades. Its budget will be cut by 43 per cent after the creation of the Luton unitary authority.

The amount of conservation and monitoring in the residual county remains the same, but the staff cuts will remove David Baker, the county archaeologist. "They will leave the group so short-staffed that only a small proportion of planning applications will be monitored," the council says.

Staffordshire faces a similar crisis, with a 50 per cent cut in the archaeology budget as Stoke-on-Trent becomes autonomous. The staff will be reduced to two, one each for archaeology and historic buildings, and Ken Sheridan, the county archaeologist, will lose his job.

The problem has arisen because towns contribute much of a county's tax income while providing only a small part of the conservation workload. As unitary authorities claim their share of their former county's income, the residual counties are unable to cope with the load, which remains largely unchanged.

Cuts are expected to reach 45 per cent in Dorset, 30 per cent in Wiltshire, and 27 per cent in Hampshire, three of the archaeologically richest counties in England. The Department of National Heritage has no power to direct authorities to make appointments, the council says, although it is asking the department to urge the counties to maintain adequate coverage.

According to Michael Coupe, head of planning at English Heritage, conservation was seen as marginal by the Local Government Commission. His advice during the review process "fell on deaf ears". Professor Morris said that "the language of misapplied accountancy means the very opposite of what it says: for more cost-effective read less, for better value for money read worse".

University news

Oxford

The following members of Jesus College have been awarded prizes:

For Firsts in Final Honours School: Alexander Beattie, Sarah Cox, Gwenllian Davies, Alison Foster, Chui-Ling Goh, Susie Hallsworth, David Hickin, Daniel Hullah, Susan Johnson, Rachel Kellett, Natalie Kershaw, James McConnachie, Ian Morgan, Glen O'Hara, Matthew Preston, Hari Roberts, Asheesh Sharma, Andrew Smith, Catherine Webster.

For First Class in Honour Moderations/Distictions in Prelims: Ieuan Adams, Stephen Chewter, Siwan Davies, Kate Frost, Bernhard Fulda, Aliza Gaon, Claire Gifford, Angus Halkett, Joanna Hillard, Robert Hinch, Alan Moss, James Norman, Benjamin Preston, Jessica Rose, Nicholas Scola, Andrew Tolley, Neil Walker.

For a First Class in the BCL: Bernard Porter.

For Distinction in Supplementary Subject (Quantum Chemistry): Christopher Seward.

J.N.L. Baker Prize in Geography awarded jointly to: Stephanie Adams, Halima-Noor Khan.

Bleackley Prize in Modern Languages: Vidhya Alakeson.

Bowers Award awarded jointly to: Sion Gibby, Farukh Malik, Paul Olding, Hanah Salah.

Aled Davies Prize in Biological Sciences: Lawrence Moon.

Davies Prize (for best performance in a Final Honour School): Susan Johnson.

Dehqani-Tafti Prize in PPE: Adam Bogdanor.

Ferdinand Prize in Chemistry: Jeremy Burrows.

Anthony Fletcher Award: Adam King.

Genner Prize in Classics: Claire Poulter.

Green Studentships awarded jointly to: Victoria Coyle, David Fisher, Anne McConnell, Helen Mills, Richard Sheldon, Victoria Vasey, Robert Carroll, Julian Douglas, Zoe Duncan, Bernhard Fulda, Melanie Langmead, Lucy Penna, Hanah Salah.

E.C. Hart: Amy Lunt, Gwenllian Davies.

Maddison Prize in Modern Languages: Katy Hathaway.

Paget Awards awarded jointly to: Julian Douglas, Zoe Duncan.

D.G. Ritchie Prize in PPE: Elizabeth Lord, Emma Vardy.

Junior Vaughan Prize in Mathematics: David Hickin.

Welson Prize in Law: David Wilson.

C.F. Williamson Prize in English awarded jointly to: James McConnachie, Charalambos Neophytou.

Woodward Prizes in Chemistry: Alison Foster, Stephen Conway, Joanna Hillard.

Memorial service

Brigadier Malcolm Dennison

A memorial service for Brigadier Malcolm Gray Dennison was held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street. The Rev Simon Hobbs, the Rev Colin McLean and the Rev Tom Hiney officiated.

Mr Morison Johnston and Mr Denis Connell read the lessons. Mr John Shipman read from the works of T.E. Lawrence and Mr Hugh Leach read *High Flight* by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee. Mr St John Armitage paid tribute. Among others present were:

Mr Hussain Ibrahim (representing the Embassy of Oman), the Hon Ivor Lucas and Sir Donald Hawley (vice-presidents, Anglo Omani Society), Colonel Nigel Knocker (chairman, Sultan's Armed Forces Association) with Major-General Kenneth Perkins (vice-president), Brigadier J T W Landon and many other friends.

Schools news

Abbotsholme School

The Council of Abbotsholme have pleasure in announcing the appointment of Mr Martin Allison to succeed Mr Darrell Farrant as Headmaster in September 1997, on Mr Farrant's retirement after 13 years' distinguished service. Mr Allison is presently Director of Studies, Head of English and Director of Drama at Lord Wandsworth College, Hampshire.

The King's School, Canterbury

The eighth Calvin & Rose G. Hoffman Prize for Distinguished Publication on Christopher Marlowe has been awarded to Dr Ruth Lunney, of NSW, Australia. Entries for the ninth prize should be submitted to the Headmaster by September 1, 1997. Further details may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, The King's School, Canterbury CT1 2ES.

Dinners

British Medical Ultrasound Society

The annual dinner of the British Medical Ultrasound Society was held last night at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. Dr Henry Irving, President of the Society, proposed the toast to the guests, and Professor Luigi Bolondi, President of the European Federation of Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, also spoke.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Jenkin of Roding, a Vice-President of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Professor Peter Hall, Professor Duncan Maclennan and Mr Rodney A.R. Green were the speakers.

Ball

British-American-Canadian Associates

The Princess Margaret attended the 44th British-American-Canadian Ball held last night at Grosvenor House. The Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham, GCMG, GCVO, President, presided. The Chairman of the Ball was Mrs Gerald McNeil Halward. Among those present were:

The Canadian High Commissioner and Mrs MacLaren, Sir Antony Acland, GCMG, GCVO, and Lady Acland, Rear Admiral David S. Bill III, USN, and Mrs Bill, Mr and Mrs Jacques Billodeau, Mr and Mrs Robert A. Bradtke, Sir Paul and Lady Newall, Mr and Mrs Michael O'Brien, the Hon Lady Ramsbotham and Mr and Mrs Robert M. Worcester.

Induction

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir Ralph Robins, Chairman of Rolls-Royce plc, was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, (IMechE) at an Ordinary Meeting last night. During the meeting Professor A.J. Kinloch delivered the 84th Thomas Hawksley Memorial Lecture, "Adhesives in Engineering". The President of IMechE, Professor Ernest Shannon, was in the chair.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P. Brice
and Miss P.C. Munn

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Brice, of Fletchersbridge, Cornwall, and Philippa (Pippa), daughter of Professor and Mrs Robert Munn, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Mr S.C. de Chair
and Miss L.J.A. Benjamin

The engagement is announced between Carlo, son of the late Somerset de Chair and of Mrs Carmen Kaufler, formerly of St Osyth, Essex, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Benjamin, of South Street, London.

Mr J.T. Coles
and Miss T.C.M. Stobbs

The engagement is announced between Joe, son of Mr and Mrs Walter Coles, of Wandsworth, London, and Tanya, daughter of the late Simon Stobbs, of Kenya, and of Mrs Primrose Stobbs, of Chelsea, London.

Mr B.G.R. Kellett
and Miss C.P. McGrath

The engagement is announced between Benedict, second son of Mr and Mrs R.R. Kellett, of Staines, Middlesex, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. McGrath, of Graffham, West Sussex.

Mr R.S.J. Pembroke
and Miss C.N. Cranston

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Pembroke, of Upham, Hampshire, and Charlotte, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs David Cranston, of Durrington, Wiltshire.

Marriages

Mr K. Bhattacharya
and Miss S. Mukherjee

The marriage took place between Kausik, son of Mr and Mrs S.N. Bhattacharya, and Susmita, daughter of Dr and Mrs S.K. Mukherjee, in Calcutta, yesterday.

Mr W.D. Stovin
and Miss S.A. Myers

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, of Mr William Stovin, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Stovin, and Miss Sophie Myers, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Myers. The Rev Paul Nicolson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Candida Wooldridge. Mr Robert Kimsey was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr J.A. Tabet
and Miss P. Hennessy

The marriage took place on Tuesday, December 3, 1996, at The Old Town Hall, Chelsea, of Joseph Assaad Tabet to Patricia Hennessy. The reception was held at The Cadogan.

Receptions

British Library of Political and Economic Science

Lord Dainton was the host at a reception given by the British Library of Political and Economic Science last night at Goldsmiths' Hall to mark the library's centenary. Professor Leslie Hannah, Acting Director of the LSE, gave an address.

Strathclyde University

Professor Gerard Hastings, Head of the Department of Marketing, Strathclyde University, was the host at a reception held at the university yesterday to mark the department's silver jubilee. During the reception the department presented the university with a frame holding Letters Patent from the Court of Lord Lyon. This year is the bicentenary of the university which was granted a Full Achievement of Arms as part of its celebrations. Professor Tom R. Bone, Deputy Principal, accepted the gift on behalf of the university. Her Majesty's Ross Herald of Arms was the guest of honour and proclaimed the Letters Patent.

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BIRTHS

BEARD - On 1st December 1996, to Sally (née Cameron) and Nicholas, a son, Edward George Wales.

BROWN - On 17th November, 1996, to Lucy (née Mayger) and Lance, a son, Matthew Simon.

BURN - On December 4th 1996, to Helen (née Cox) and Nicholas, a son, Fergus James Boddam.

GODFREY-EVANS - On December 5th, to Wendy (née King) and Peter, a daughter, Megan Louise, a sister for Kathryn and Mark.

HOLBECH - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Matilda and William, a son, George.

LACE - On 2nd December 1996, to Sue (née Jackson) and Peter, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Emma, a sister for Thomas and Joshua - and Jack, forever in our thoughts.

McGETTIGAN - On December 10th, to Clare and Peter, a beautiful son, Benjamin Anthony, a brother for Ellen.

NAPIER - On December 4th, to Pippa and Philip, a son, Harry James Lennox.

READING-THOMPSON - Nicky and Mark are delighted to announce the birth of Benjamin on Monday 9th December 1996. Mother and son are both happy and extremely well.

RICE - To Matthew and Emma, a daughter, Margaret Sarah, 10th December 1996.

BIRTHS

WALKER - On 5th December 1996 at the Chelsea and Westminster, London, to Fiona (née Newman) and Charles, a daughter, Charlotte Georgia Ashton, a much loved addition to the family.

DEATHS

ANNETT - On 10th December 1996 peacefully at home after a long illness bravely fought, Romey, dearly loved wife of David and formerly of Robert Upcott, beloved mother of Susan, Josephine, William and Rosamund, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral family only. Thanksgiving Service later.

BATCHELOR - Eleanor Bowes (née Pack), widow of Denzil Batchelor, mother of David and Christopher, grandmother and great-grandmother. Peacefully at home at Onslow Square on Tuesday December 10th. Funeral at Brompton Oratory on Wednesday December 18th at 11 am. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1.

BROKE - Philip Adlington, peacefully at Peterborough, on December 9th 1996. Beloved husband of Jean and father of Michael, Richard and Anthea. Cremation private. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Peterborough Cathedral at 3pm on Wednesday December 18th. Flowers to Watkins and Stafford Funeral Directors, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough.

DEATHS

BROOKS - R.C. (Bobby) of Old Basing, beloved husband of Kay, father of Charles and David, grandfather of James and Charlotte, died peacefully on 9th December aged 93, at The Grange Nursing Home, Sherborne St John. Sadly missed, fondly remembered. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Old Basing, on Wednesday 18th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Alexander & Dry, Basingstoke 844663.

CONWAY - At Ross Hall Hospital, Glasgow, on 10th December 1996, Robert (Bob) (retired buyer of C & A and ex Member of Romford Golf Club). Beloved husband of Margaret.

ELSAS - Madelaine peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Simple funeral at Hendon Crematorium on Friday December 20th at 11.30 am. Flowers to Blackwell, 20 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5RU.

FINLAY - Audrey (née Baring). On 9th December 1996, peacefully at home on the Isle of Mull, aged 87. Much loved mother of Jenny, Geordie, Maud and Emma. Funeral 2 pm at Kilmore Church, Dervaig, on Saturday, 14th December 1996. Enquiries to David Leigh, 01680 814 215.

LINNETT - Dr. Michael J. peacefully at the Oxford Beaumont on 6th December. Beloved son of Joseph (deceased) and Dora A. Linnett of Carcoar, Australia and brother of Elaine of Lithgow, Australia.

FOX - Michele Simone on December 9th 1996 aged 30, Filmmaker, Dancer and Choreographer, in London after courageous fight bravely borne. Beloved daughter of Edwin and Joscelyn, most loved sister to Jacqueline, Gerald and Claudine and beloved partner to Jeremy. Her most special spirit lives on in us all, she will be most sorely missed by her family and wide circle of friends. Funeral will take place at Edgware Cemetery, Edgwarebury Lane, Edgware at 1 pm on December 12th. Prayers at parents home Thursday 8pm.

HARE - Dr. Edward H. Hare FRCP FRC Psych MD MA died peacefully on December 8th 1996 at King's College Hospital aged 79 years. Will be greatly missed by his wife Filby, sister Betty, daughter Anne and granddaughters Jane and Louisa. Funeral at Beckenham Crematorium Tuesday 17th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please.

HUGHES - On December 10th in hospital, Dr. Enid Lilian Hughes, aged 94 years of Painswick, Gloucestershire. The Funeral Service will take place at 10.30 am, on Wednesday December 18th, at St Mary's Church, Painswick. Family flowers only by request, but donations may be made to the Painswick Surgery Medical Equipment Fund, c/o The Surgery, Hoyland House, Painswick. All enquiries to Selim Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, Glos. Tel: (01242) 525383.

HOPE-WYNNE - On 7th December aged 80 years peacefully in his sleep at home after a long illness borne with steadfast courage. Stephen, dearly loved husband of Maureen and father of Cressida, Timothy, Christopher and Stephen, also an affectionate grandfather to Luke, Camilla, Danielle, Hugo, Francesca, Micaela and Nicolas. Funeral Service to be held at St Mary Oatlands Church, Oatlands, Weybridge, Friday 20th December at 1.15 pm followed by interment at Weybridge Cemetery at 2.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Musicians Benevolent Fund c/o and all enquiries to F.W. Chitty & Co., 45 Elmgrove Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8PB tel: (01932) 842220. Memorial Service to be arranged.

JENKINSON - Hubert Eric Blakeway, peacefully on 8th December after a long and gallant fight. Elizabeth Hope, suddenly and with great dignity, on 9th December. Beloved and adored mother and stepfather of Elizabeth and Robert, grandparents of Georgiana and Abigail, parents-in-law of Joeske. Their love for each other was an inspiration to all their many loyal friends. The funeral has taken place in Nicosia, Cyprus.

LIEVEN - HSH Prince Leonid de Lieven, died on December 9th 1996. Memorial Service at Russian Cathedral, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7, on 25th January 1997 at 4 pm. No flowers.

LEEDHAM-GREEN - Dr. Mary, peacefully on 9th December at St Andrew's Care Centre, Bottisham, aged 84, much loved mother of Charles and Elisabeth and grandmother of Richard, Kay and Sarah. Cremation in Cambridge: service at Trumpington Parish Church, at 12 noon on Friday, 20th December; interment of ashes at Southwold, Suffolk: service at St Edmund's Church, at 2pm on Friday, 3rd January. No flowers, please, but donations, if desired, to Newnham College Development Trust (c/o Mrs C. Cocke, Newnham College, Cambridge) or Friends of Southwold Hospital.

MELVILLE - Derek, Musician and Composer, on 7th December 1996 after a long illness. Funeral at Yoxford Parish Church, Suffolk at 12.30 pm Monday 16th December. No flowers but donations if desired for English Setters Rescue Association, Charity Number 293708 to G. Jenkins, 129 Stock Road, Billericay, CM12 0RP.

MÜLLER - On 7th December in hospital Gerard Michael Müller F.R.C.S., beloved husband of Ann and a dear brother and uncle. Cremation at Golders Green on Tuesday 17th December at 2.15 pm. No flowers by his request. Donations, if desired, to The Salvation Army. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons Ltd. (0171) 387-6075.

PERRY - Canon Michael Perry of St Peter and St Paul Church, Tonbridge, died peacefully on December 9th. All enquiries to Abbey Funeral Services, 173 High Street, Tonbridge, tel: (01732) 360328.

NELSON - Patrick Hay Montgomerie on December 9th 1996 in the Isle of Man. Father of Sherry and Susetta, grandfather of Lucy and Sarah and great-grandfather of Katie and Samantha. Service of Remembrance at 11 am Bride Church on Friday 13th December 1996. No flowers please but donations to The Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London, EC1Y 8JJ.

RICHARDSON - Eileen Adelaide, daughter of the late Granville and Beatrice Richardson, died at home on 6th December. There will be a service at 3 pm on Monday 16th December at Lewisham Crematorium. Floral tributes welcome to be sent to Lewisham Crematorium.

ROBERTS-JONES - C.B.E., R.A., L.L.D. On December 9th 1996 suddenly at home Ivor aged 83 years. Dearly loved husband of Monica, father of Corinne (decd.), father-in-law of Kenneth. Private family service at Shimpling Church.

ROBINSON - Audrey. At home on December 9th 1996, aged 76 years. Dearly loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and friend. Family cremation followed by a Service at St Peter & St Pauls Church Aldeburgh, Suffolk, at 12 noon on Monday December 16th. Family flowers only, donations made payable to Tony Browns Charity Account, to be divided between local charities c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ.

SMETHURST - Mary Josephine aged 80 years of Lancing, Sussex, formerly of East Dulwich. Enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd. tel: (01903) 753184.

TEAGUE - On 10th December, Nora May, aged 82 years, wife of the late Colonel John Teague C.M.G., C.B.E., O.B.E. (Mil), M.C., loving mother of Mervyn Carey, Christine and Sylvia (died September 1971) and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Horsmonden, Kent on Friday 20th December at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells (01892 522462) to be divided between British Diabetic Association and British Heart Foundation.

TOMLINSON - Ken promoted to glory on Monday December 9th 1996 peacefully at home Cockermouth, Cumbria. Beloved husband of Hazel and much loved father of Andrew and Sue, grandpa, brother and a friend of many. Cremation at Carlisle Crematorium on Monday December 16th at 1.20 pm followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Lawton Street Methodist Church, Cockermouth at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in memory to Nepal Leprosy Trust and West Cumbria Hospice at Home c/o John Hunter ED, 18 Rose Lane, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9DT.

WISSA - Gertie of London, SW1, widow of Arnold Bothams, died Friday 6th December at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Funeral Service 12 noon on Monday 16th December at St Luke's Church, Chelsea, Sydney Street, London, SW3. Old friends welcome afterwards. Enquiries to James Crook, tel: (0181) 904-4193.

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WILLIAM RUSHTON

William Rushton, cartoonist and comedian, died yesterday following complications after heart surgery aged 59. He was born in London on August 18, 1937.

One of the exemplars of the satirical spirit which characterised the Sixties, Willie Rushton was one of those humorists who defined what was, and what was not, possible as criticism of what had until then been the inviolable ranks of the great and the good. As a co-founder of the satirical magazine *Private Eye*, for which he drew cartoons, and on BBC Television as a member of Ned Sherrin's *That Was The Week That Was* team he made an impact on British consciousness, which it proved impossible to reverse.

The appearance of *Private Eye* and *TW3* provided a wholesome douche to the hidden corners of British political life. It is not too much to say that the standing of politicians and the business of government have never been the same since, at least in the eyes of the British public. At a stroke, the politesse of the broadsheet press was made to look supine. The sheer daring with which politicians were pilloried week after week — in the case of *Private Eye* fortnight after fortnight — seemed to restore to British political commentary a robustness it had not had since the days of Gillray and Rowlandson. The venal, the corrupt and the simply pompous and self-serving were regularly exposed with a daring that frequently courted — and as frequently sustained — suits for libel.

Ingrained habits of reverence for government were undermined with breathtaking suddenness. Politicians were no longer allowed to inhabit some lofty moral empyrean in which their judgments were not to be questioned by the yahoos over whom they ruled. The yahoos had suddenly escaped from their lockups. Armed with deadly pen and ink (and fortunately for them coming from the same social and educational background as those they assailed) they supplied the public with tremendous and subversive fun.

The social impact of the work of men like Rushton can scarcely be overestimated. The Sixties was a time when university education suddenly became available to young people from unmoneyed backgrounds who might until then have had to make do with the tuition of a technical college. If *Private Eye*, where, arguably, Ruston did his defining work, was then timorously unavailable on the shelves of major newsagents' chains, it circulated widely in the junior common rooms, students' unions and coffee bars of universities from Oxford and Cambridge through redbrick to plateglass institutions. Working-class parents who watched their children convulsed with mirth over this haphazardly laid-out and none-too-well printed magazine, were, even if uninvited, drawn to it, and became subversive in their turn, in a manner which was different from the institutionalised trade union traditions in which they had, more often than not, been brought up.

After *Private Eye* and *TW3* Rushton was to do much else, especially on television. His appearance in Spike Milligan's *The Bed-sitting Room* is a theatre landmark for its times. His contribution to shows like *Blankety Blank* and *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* became part of the vocabulary of a later television and radio generation. But it is for his early cartoon work that he has his indelible place in the history of British visual satire.

Extraordinarily, Rushton was not himself an extrovert. He would have deprecated any suggestion that his being was rooted in his (considerable) funniness. Though himself a genuinely genial man he sometimes seemed surprised that it was possible to earn a living by turning his particular talents to account. British political consciousness is immeasurably the more rich that he decided to do so.

Like so many cultural movements, the satirical Sixties was the result of a happy conjunction of like-minded individuals. It was not the streets of London — where Rushton was born — but the unlikely rural setting of Shrewsbury School that was its actual genesis. With fellow Salopians, Richard Ingrams and Christopher Booker, Rushton was party to the foundation of a magazine which soon brought down on them the wrath of the authorities. This was in the Fifties when the habits of respect for authority were still strong. Schoolboy sniggers at the frailty of their seniors were not meant to have such effective and painful barbs. The trio's satirical portraits went far beyond those friendly caricatures at which schoolmasters are permitted to laugh indulgently. At Shrewsbury Rushton also developed his acting talents, on one occasion playing Lord Loam in *The Admirable Crichton*.

But, unlike his gifted school contemporaries, Rushton did not go on to university. National Service in the ranks of the Army was to be his further education. Given his essentially iconoclastic outlook he later reflected on this period of his life with surprising kindliness. "The Army is, God bless it, one of the funniest institutions on earth and also a sort of microcosm. Through serving in the ranks I discovered the basic native wit of my fellow man — whom basically, to tell the truth, I'd never met before."

After National Service Rushton had to face up to the necessity of employment and worked for a period in a solicitors' office. But he had kept in touch with Ingrams and Booker and after a few heavy nights fuelled by the draught ales of the King's Head and Eight Bells in Chelsea the concept of *Private* Eye was born. A friend invested £800 to keep them going for several weeks until *The Observer* gave the magazine its imprimatur in a judicious review — and they were home and dry.

The year was 1961. It was to be Rushton's *annus mirabilis*. He also made his stage debut in Spike Milligan's *The Bed-siting Room* at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury. Kenneth Tynan, then at the height of his influence as a drama critic, gave both it and Rushton's performance a highly favourable notice and the combination of these two, completely different, forms of exposure suddenly made Rushton a name to be conjured with. It led to an invitation to join that other great subversive popular cultural influence, BBCTVs *TW3*. With Millicent Martin and David Frost it ran for only one season before the director-general of the day decided to take it off, as being far too subversive with a general election in the offing. (Its portraits of the Tory Prime Minister Lord Home were indeed masterpieces of refined cruelty.)

Rushton cast his net wide thereafter. He continued to act. He drew cartoons for a number of newspapers and magazines besides the *Eye*, including the *Literary Review*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *Saga* magazine. His radio show *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* was a huge sucess, though he appeared also in a number of more down market quiz programmes. He wrote a number of books, notably a novel about W. G. Grace. But to the end he always considered himself to be primarily a cartoonist. Examples of his work can currently be seen at the National Portrait Gallery which commemorates the 35th anniversary of the founding of *Private Eye*, for which Rushton had contributed a cartoon until his death.

He is survived by his wife Arlene, and by a son and two stepsons.

THE EARL SONDES

The Earl Sondes died from cancer on December 2 aged 56. He was born on May 1, 1940.

THE Earl Sondes reminded many of his friends of an 18th-century sporting aristocrat, with his interests in shooting, racing, skiing, yachting and gambling.

Henry George Herbert Mills-Lade, who in 1970 became the 5th Earl Sondes, featured rarely in a tabloid press which would have been thirsty for gossip about a four-times married peer who was once on the point of signing as a player for Manchester United. But he largely evaded their scrutiny, probably because he lived abroad for many years, and in England enjoyed a varied but loyal and tight-knit group of friends.

For much of his early life, Henry Sondes held the courtesy title of Lord Throwley, before succeeding to his father's earldom together with Lees Court, the Inigo Jones mansion near Faversham in Kent, and its accompanying 7,000-acre estate. Much earlier in the family's history, it had stretched to 85,000 acres: on the death of the 5th Earl, though, thanks in part to his love of gambling, it had shrunk to 4,000 acres, 800 of which he farmed himself, with the rest as woodland, including a magnificent shoot, or held by tenants. Despite the decrease in its size, it has been described as the finest estate in Kent.

As an only child of stern parents Lord Sondes had led a lonely existence, ameliorated by his closeness to two devoted aunts, his mother's sister, Nadine, Princess Andrew Romanoff, and his father's sister, Isabel, Countess of Derby, the latter relationship in all likelihood influencing his later adventures as a racehorse owner. At Eton, however, his exuberant embrace of the sporting life led to his being expelled for bookmaking.

His education continued at Le Rosey in Switzerland, and subsequently at Munich University, resulting — perhaps unusually for an English aristocrat — in his fluency in German, French and Spanish. He lived variously in Kenya, Spain, France and the United States before succeeding to the title. But illness overtook him before he was able to make his maiden speech in the House of Lords.

Sondes moved out of Lees Court and into Stringman's Farm at nearby Badlesmere, where his shooting parties were famous not only for the sport offered by one of Britain's best shoots, but for their extramural entertainment — on one occasion, the British Olympic synchronised swimming team gave the shooters a demonstration of their skills in his swimming pool.

It was said that parental disapproval prevented Sondes signing professional forms for Manchester United when Matt Busby was looking for replacements to rebuild the team devastated by the Munich air crash. But soccer remained a lifelong passion, and he maintained a close interest in his local team, Gillingham, whose matches he first attended with one of the estate gardeners as a boy, and where he was later to become vice-chairman of the club.

Lord Sondes was an accomplished skier, and sailed the Atlantic four times with Sterling Hammell. Less energetically, he was also an expert backgammon player. And he earned a footnote in the annals of archaeology by presenting a Viking ship found on his estate to the National Maritime Museum.

With Sir George Merrick, he owned a number of racehorses, the most successful of which was Green Perfume, second in both the Middle Park and the Dewhurst at Newmarket as a two-year-old in 1994, and now at stud in New Zealand. Sondes was also a devotee of greyhound racing. In partnership with the musician Jools Holland, he owned Sunley Express, which was third in the 1985 Greyhound Derby.

Lord Sondes's wide range of interests earned him an equally wide range of friends, among whom he was celebrated for his great charm and his common sense. He displayed a cool head in a crisis: on one occasion he was accosted by two muggers in New York demanding that he hand over his money. "What did you do?" asked one of his friends. "The only thing one can do," he replied. "I simply ignored them."

Lord Sondes had a colourful matrimonial career, marrying, first, in Kenya in 1968, Primrose Crewswell, née Cotter. They were divorced in 1969. His second wife was an Austrian, Altgräfin Sissy, daughter of Altgraf Niklas zu Salm-Reifferscheidt-Raitz, a liaison which ended in 1981 after five years. There was also a brief third marriage to Sharon McCluskey in 1981-84.

Ten years ago, Sondes married the widowed Phyllis Schmertz, née Kane, of New York, resulting in a happy and successful partnership, the first decade of which they celebrated in October at the London Clinic where Lord Sondes was being treated for the cancer which was to end his life.

None of Lord Sondes's marriages resulted in children, and the future of the title remains in question.

SIR BRYAN ROBERTS

Sir Bryan Roberts, KCMG, QC, JP, former Attorney-General and Cabinet Secretary in Malawi, died on December 6 aged 73. He was born on March 23, 1923.

BRYAN ROBERTS was a mainstay of Dr Hastings Banda's administration in Malawi for nearly a decade after independence.

He had moved to what was then still the British colony of Nyasaland in 1961, on being offered the job of Solicitor-General by the new Governor, Sir Glyn Jones.

The two men had been together in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where Roberts had served for eight years, first as Crown Counsel and latterly as Director of Public Prosecutions.

Within 12 months of moving to Nyasaland as Jones's protégé, he was made Minister of Justice, then after Malawi's emergence as an independent state in 1964, Attorney-General. A year later his role was expanded to include the jobs of Cabinet Secretary, Secretary to the President and Head of the Malawi Civil Service. He also became chairman of the Malawi Army Council and the National Security and Intelligence Council.

A tall, spare, sophisticated lawyer whose incisive brain was complemented by a somewhat flamboyant lifestyle, Roberts sometimes looked out of position in southern Africa — as if he had strayed from the Garrick or the Wig and Pen.

But Banda, who had broken from his own colleagues, respected Bryan Roberts and placed great trust in him. This enabled Roberts, it is said, to exert a moderating influence on the President. While detaching himself from Malawi's tangled politics, he was strong enough to tell Banda what he thought.

Moreover his contemporaries point out that Banda's authoritarian excesses manifested themselves after Roberts had returned to Britain, exchanging his house on Lake Malawi for London and a retreat on the Dorset coast.

Bryan Clieve Roberts was born on the south coast at Southsea, but grew up largely in Blackheath in southeast London. His father Herbert Roberts had taught at Radley and then London University before becoming Director of Education for Croydon.

The young Roberts went to Whitgift School, from which he won a place at Magdalen College, Oxford, to read law. The war intervened, however, and in 1941 at the age of 18 he joined the Royal Artillery in the ranks.

Commissioned a year later into the 13th (Honourable Artillery Company) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, he took part in the Normandy landings and served throughout the battle for North-West Europe, as a liaison officer in 11th Armoured Division.

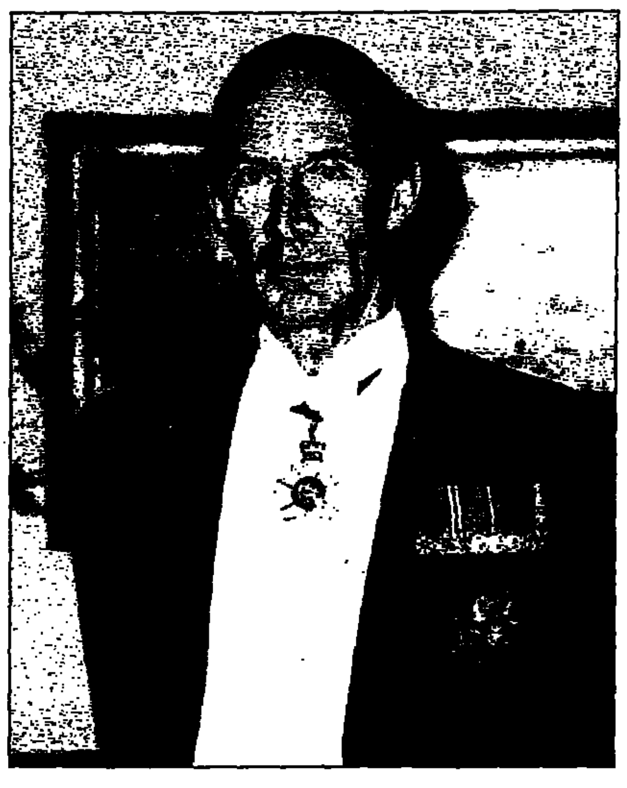
But the war ended tragically for his family with the death of his twin brother Peter, a fellow gunner, while crossing the Rhine. The loss affected Bryan profoundly, endowing him, some say, with a sense of fatalism.

He took up his place at Magdalen after the war and was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1950. He practised in chambers for 12 months, as a pupil of Lord Hailsham, before joining the Solicitor's department of the Treasury.

In 1953, however, he left to seek more adventure in Northern Rhodesia, "to escape the British climate and socialism" — as he later put it.

His eventual return to this country after nearly 20 years in Africa was dictated at least partly by the failing health of his widowed mother. He took a job in the Lord Chancellor's Office where at one time he was working for his old pupil-master Lord Hailsham. He became an Under-Secretary in 1977 with responsibility for the magistrates courts in England and Wales.

In 1982, however, as he neared his retirement from Whitehall, Roberts embarked on the final phase of his career by becoming himself a stipendiary magistrate for inner London. During the next 11 years he sat in virtually every court in the capital, from Camberwell Green to Marlborough Street.



A restive man who could easily grow bored, he loved the variety which the magistrate's life provided and relished the responsibility of being both judge and jury. Known for his courtesy whatever the status of those before him, he admitted to a special sympathy for those who had served their country in the war.

He could also be outspoken, his comments earning him space in the press from time to time. After a woman appeared before him accused of making fraudulent telephone calls to her mother in Morocco, he inveighed against foreigners who were "crooks, spongers, thieves and fraudsters" — though later agreed that he did not mean all of them.

On another occasion he complained that a change in the law prevented him from jailing a man convicted of a drink-driving offence for the fifth time. He could give him only 200 hours of community service instead.

But in May 1988 he endeared himself to football fans by agreeing to postpone a drink-driving case involving the England defender Kenny Sansom until after the finals of the European championship.

Roberts, who retired from the bench three years ago, had been appointed CMG in 1964 and advanced to KCMG in 1973. He had been chairman of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association since 1979 and was chairman of the Friends of Malawi. He belonged to the Zimbabwe Trust and the Africa Resources Trust and retained to the last his love of the region where he had spent so much of his life.

At the end of July, however, doctors told him he had inoperable cancer. Essentiallly a tidy man, he kept the bad news to himself while quietly resigning from his commitments and putting his affairs in order.

Bryan Roberts's first two marriages ended in divorce and he is survived by his third wife Barbara whom he married in 1985. He had no children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREEPHONE PAGES game result 9, 15, 18, 25, 30, 38. Prize London Break + £3,000.

LORD GREY of Naunton would like to thank all the kind friends who have sent him Christmas cards, but regrets that he himself will not be sending cards this year.

PHIL CARTER will choose the four of clubs. Predicted by Andy Nyman.

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ON THIS DAY

December 12, 1877

With Gladstone in temporary retirement and in opposition, Disraeli sent one of his ablest lieutenants, Gathorne Hardy (later created Viscount Cranbrook), to Scotland to encourage his supporters there.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATISM

Scottish Conservatism is the object of much Ministerial attention just now, and the latest of many official compliments was paid to it in Edinburgh last night by the SECRETARY FOR WAR, in a speech at the opening dinner of a Conservative Club. The public may be excused for declining to take more than a languid interest in the growth of Conservative opinions in Scotland. They are not a plant of vigorous growth; they have usually the air of exotics, and they do not easily bear the frosty intellectual atmosphere found to the north of the Tweed. But it is quite natural that the leaders of Scottish Conservatism should make a vigorous attempt to foil the Liberal campaign which was recently begun by Lord HARTINGTON. In Scotland, if anywhere, the Liberal reaction will commence, for it is still a stronghold of what are called advanced opinions, and all that is needed to give them practical effect is the fervour of a vigorous agitation. But the Scotch are slow to move, and the question of Disestablishment, which Lord Hartington so lightly touched, may long do little more than produce divided counsels. Mr. Hardy finds abundant food for good-natured satire in the attempt to bring unity of action out of conflicting opinions. In conspicuous advantage over their opponents in discipline, steadiness, and obedience to the word of command. But the war in Turkey should suffice to show that defensive warfare has a special weakness of its own, which is found out whenever it is assailed with the strength of an active purpose. In Scotland, as elsewhere, Conservatism has its Plevnas. The assailants usually begin by a series of blundering attacks, but in the end weight of numbers makes up for the want of skill, and fervour of sentiment for the lack of discipline. If Scotland has any faulty institutions — a proposition which we shrink from assuming — their safety comes, not from the Conservative unity which Mr. Hardy eulogized last night, but from the languor of Liberal opinion. That languor will not be shaken off so long as the affairs of the Continent possess the present absorbing interest. The most ardent Radical finds it difficult to spare any indignation for the little anomalies of his own favoured land when France is fighting for the very existence of Parliamentary Government, and when Turkey is torn by a struggle which may affect the relations of European States for a century. At such time, English and even Scotch reformers find that their own small grievances can easily wait.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

NEWS

Willetts resigns over sleaze

■ The sleaze row that has dogged John Major for three years claimed another victim yesterday as David Willetts, the Paymaster General, resigned over his part in the cash-for-questions affair.

Mr Willetts, regarded as one of the brightest talents in the Government, "did the honourable thing" within minutes of the publication of a damning all-party report that went close to accusing him of lying to a committee of MPs ..... **Pages 1, 2, 21**

Drivers 'should foot victims' bills'

■ Drivers should pay for the hospital treatment of their injured accident victims, the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, said. Its proposals for the National Health Service to recoup treatment costs would send motorists' insurance premiums rocketing .... **Page 1**

Reindeer at risk

Herdsmen in Chukostsky, one of Russia's most remote regions, were struggling against the elements to save up to 30,000 reindeer from starving to death because of icy conditions .. **Page 1**

Roman relic found

The carved head of a cavalryman who fought in the Roman conquest of Britain has been found and will be reunited with the rest of his tombstone in a Colchester museum........ **Page 3**

Gridlock warning

The eight-hour traffic jam which brought the City of London and the East End to a standstill on Tuesday night was only a taste of things to come, motoring organisations said .... **Pages 5, 21**

Bombing verdicts

Two young Palestinians were convicted at the Old Bailey of plotting the bombing of the Israeli embassy and a Jewish charity two years ago........ **Page 7**

Curbs on knives

Dealers in combat knives face up to two years' jail under proposals being introduced by a Labour MP to curb possession of the weapons on the streets........ **Page 8**

No 10 web site

John Major opened Britain's best-known front door to Internet surfers by launching the 10 Downing Street web site, but he will not accept e-mail .... **Page 10**

Gulf War hearing

MoD officials knew the full extent of the use of organophosphate pesticides in the Gulf at least two months before ministers were told, the Commons Defence Committee learnt........ **Page 11**

New euro-symbol

Brussels unveiled its logo for the euro — a crescent-shaped "e" with twin bars, and designs for the banknotes destined to replace francs, marks and other united currencies .... **Pages 13, 21**

Elephant graveyard

Evidence of the mass slaughter of an entire herd of 280 elephants by poachers in the Congo using AK47 rifles will fuel the debate over the lifting of the ivory trade ban........ **Page 14**

Dharan bombing

Saudi Arabia says that the bombing of an American military complex in Dhahran last June was carried out by Saudi Shia extremists sponsored by Iran .... **Page 15**

Child labour ends

Tens of millions of Indian children working illegally have been ordered out of their jobs in an unprecedented intervention by the Supreme Court........ **Page 16**

West Bank shooting

A 12-year-old Jewish boy was killed and five other Israelis were injured in a drive-by shooting by Palestinian terrorists in the occupied West Bank .... **Page 17**

Onward Christian drivers

■ Christian motorists tempted by aggression on the roads have been given their own highway code and special hymns to help them to turn the other cheek as ruder drivers roar by on the other side. The Christian Road Safety Association disclosed its ten commandments for peace on the roads, urging travellers to begin and end every journey with prayer........ **Page 5**

JOHN COBB

Arthur Scargill, left, has a word with Ken Capstick, Socialist Labour Party candidate in today's Barnsley E by-election. Page 12

BUSINESS

Shell: The oil giant plans to invest more than $10 billion in producing oil in the Gulf of Mexico over the next four years........ **Page 25**

Wrong turn: The Automobile Association has fallen out with Ordnance Survey, the government-owned mapping agency, in a move that could force the destruction of thousands of AA maps ...... **Page 25**

Holiday extras: Airtours has set aside £1 million and three full-time members of staff to handle the Monopolies Commission inquiry into the travel industry ...... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 53.2 points to close at 3982.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 93.2 to 92.9 after a rise from $1.6516 to $1.6559 but a fall from DM2.5663 to DM2.5516.... **Page 28**

Cricket: Darren Gough took five wickets as England enjoyed the best day of their tour of Zimbabwe, reducing Matabeleland to 181 for nine in Bulawayo .... **Page 48**

Football: Newcastle will play Monaco in the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup, while Liverpool face Brann Bergen of Norway in the Cup Winners' Cup .... **Page 48**

John Bryant: Road races could be forced off the streets and into stadiums and parks under directives issued by the police to event organisers........ **Page 46**

Boxing: Riddick Bowe has shed nearly three stone in his attempt to regain his place among the best heavyweights in the world with victory over Andrew Golota in Atlantic City........ **Page 42**

Spot the dog: Glenn Close looks stunning in black-and-white, the dogs are photogenic and London is pretty in the snow — but the live-action *101 Dalmatians* isn't a patch on the cartoon .... **Page 33**

Desirable discs: From Anne-Sophie Mutter playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto to Joan Sutherland remastered: *Times* critics' classical records of the year .... **Page 34**

Spend, spend, spend: The extravagance of La Scala's production of Gluck's *Armide* would make British companies' eyes water — but it has little artistic effect ...... **Page 35**

Fine Finn: Matthew Francis brings *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* thrillingly to life in his stage production at Greenwich, complete with raft effects .... **Page 35**

IN THE TIMES

■ EDUCATION
Are Christian nativity plays in schools outdated in a society with so many religions?

■ POP
Paul Sexton interviews Art Garfunkel to find out why he took 12 years to walk across America

Hounded: A sweet-natured spotted dog is irresistible. But, says Valerie Grove, owning a dalmatian is a heavy commitment .... **Page 19**

The long march: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the stones that have become another obstacle for Sir Ranulph Fiennes on his solo march in Antarctica .... **Page 18**

Cancer study: How to cut the death rate from cancer of the colon and rectum by 15 per cent........ **Page 18**

No smoking: As hotels and restaurants increasingly respond to public pressure for smoking bans, a leading insurer says it will reject claims from drunk Christmas holidaymakers........ **Page 38**

Wild times: Whatever your wish for an exotic holiday, you should find something to satisfy you in the latest brochures .... **Page 38**

Wise words: Ian McIntyre on quotable quotes, plus Roy Porter on the changes, or lack of them, on attitudes to madness...... **Pages 36, 37**

Boon is pressing for a German seat on the UN Security Council, but whoever wants a real say there needs the courage to take unpopular decisions — *General Anzeiger*

Preview: A Turkish bath is a retreat from life's stresses. *Women At Play* (Channel 4, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on a double helping of diesel oil .... **Page 47**

The decent thing

Although party and parliamentary managers wanted him to fight his corner, no minister of the Crown could comfortably continue while his reputation was in dispute. Mr Willetts deserves credit for recognising that........ **Page 21**

Sitting tight

Martin McGuinness has dismissed prospects of an IRA ceasefire as "virtually non-existent". His words confirm what the security sources had already detected........ **Page 21**

Spreading the jam

The balance between road and rail needs to be improved — as well as the traffic flow of information and truth........ **Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Both the current account deficit and the growth of consumer credit reflect the central malformation of America's economy, which is that the consumer society has a spending but not a saving culture. This has been made much worse by the demographic imbalance between post-war births and the subsequent period of abortions........ **Page 20**

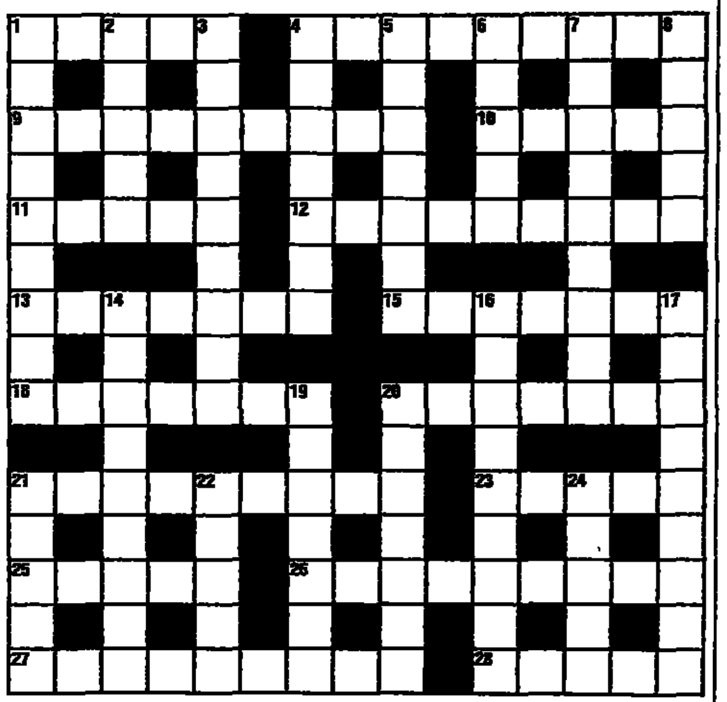
MAGNUS LINKLATER

Blaming the media as Labour is doing in Scotland is usually a sign of a party in trouble — but there is no reason why Labour should be in trouble with such a huge lead. If quarrels are being picked at this stage, when everything is flowing nicely, what might happen when the going gets rough? ...... **Page 20**

Willie Rushton, cartoonist, writer and performer; **Sir Bryan Roberts,** former Attorney-General and Cabinet Secretary in Malawi; **The Earl Sondes,** sportsman .... **Page 23**

European views on EMU; surgical specialists advertising for trade; heroic legacy of Douglas Bader; caring for handicapped children; Lord's media centre; Labour's policy on the Falklands; Sir Nicholas Scott........ **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,349



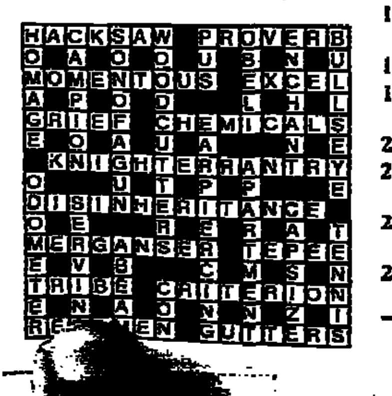
ACROSS

1 River commonly said to be brown (5).
4 House sign is provided for city's founder (9).
9 Underclothing I adjusted in this restaurant (9).
10 Faith one's associated with holy book (5).
11 Historian put a little weight on (5).
12 Boasting one's in front line, in bloody awful position (9).
13 Daily as tea-maker, and relaxed about it? (7).
15 Husband no longer a decent fellow (7).
18 Path to house installed, usable by people in cars (5-2).
20 Veronica may protect this killer facing charge (7).
21 This financial centre's project made a bomb (9).
23 Be disconcerting for audience in stage production (5).
25 Organised workers' disrespect for plant (5).
26 Harsh but popular Pope (9).
27 Draw attention to star, say (9).
28 Make name mainly as lover (5).

DOWN

1 Criticised for having raised hairstyle? (9).
2 Proudly announce son is on board (5).
3 Nag a sinner to reform (9).
4 Hear confession over money for contract (7).
5 Satisfying session (7).
6 Feeling sorry one's broken the crossbar (5).
7 It's badly made from first to last (9).
8 Share in decision about medal for boy (5).
14 Decline after matching national standard (5,4).
16 Gaping mouth heartily taking pâté (9).
17 Wind damaged new resort (9).
19 Making observation about husband's love (7).
20 Chap, cross, goes to whip pet (4,3).
21 One flares up when struck in bout (5).
22 Dismay as judge finally abandons hope for convict (5).
24 Turn away from street, heading right (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,348



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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Dunkeswell Aerodrome, Devon, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.09in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 0.2hr

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will be generally dull. Many places will be misty with drizzle and in parts of the Midlands and southern England patchy fog may not clear during the day. Bright intervals are likely in sheltered parts of west Wales.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly dry at first. Cloud and rain over northern Scotland will spread south to all parts during the day, with sleet in places and snow over mountains.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N:** dull, drizzle at times. Foggy on hills. Winds light, easterly. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **E England, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England:** mostly cloudy, patchy drizzle, some brighter intervals in the West. Winds light, easterly. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with mist and drizzle. Rain spreading from the North, with snow on hills. Brighter later. Winds light, variable. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** overcast with rain or sleet. Becoming brighter with wintry showers. Wind freshening from northwest. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** colder clearer conditions spreading south to all parts.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

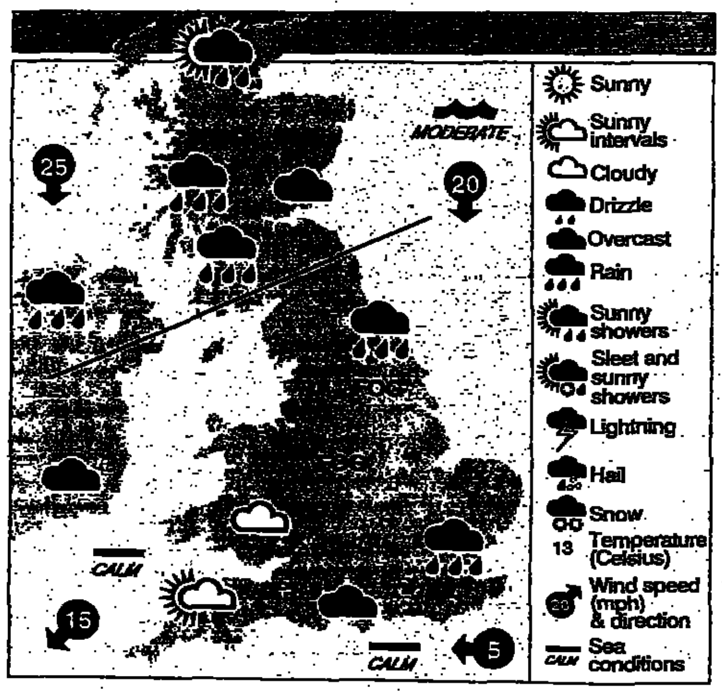
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Leuchars	-	0.01	5	41	d
Anglesey	-	-	5	41	du	Littlehmptn	-	-	5	41	du
Aspatria	-	-	5	41	du	London	-	-	6	43	du
Attn: times						Lowestoft	-	-	5	41	c
Aviemore	-	0.01	3	37	c	Manchester	-	0.01	5	41	du
Belfast	-	-	6	43	du	Margate	-	-	5	41	du
Birmingham	-	0.01	5	41	du	Minehead	-	0.01	2	36	du
Bognor R	-	-	4	39	du	Morecambe	-	-	5	41	du
Bournem'th	-	-	4	39	du	Newcastle	-	0.01	6	43	d
Bristol	-	0.01	4	39	c	Newquay	-	0.01	7	45	c
Buxton	-	-	4	39	du	Norwich	-	-	5	41	du
Cardiff	-	0.01	3	37	du	Oxford	-	0.01	3	37	c
Clacton	X					Penzance	X	-	10	50	du
Cleethorpes	X					Poole	-	0.01	4	39	du
Cromer	-	-	5	41	du	Prestatyn	X	-	5	41	du
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	-	0.01	4	39	c
Eastbourne	-	-	5	41	du	Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	-	0.01	6	43	d	Salcombe	X				
Eskdalemuir	X					Sandown	-	-	4	39	du
Exmouth	-	0.01	4	39	du	Saunton Snd	-	-	5	41	du
Falmouth	0.2	-	9	48	c	Scarboro'	-	-	5	41	du
Fishguard	-	-	3	37	du	Shanklin	-	-	4	39	du
Folkestone	-	0.01	5	41	du	Shrewsbury	X				
Glasgow	-	0.01	6	43	du	Skegness	-	-	6	43	c
Guernsey	-	0.01	7	45	c	Southend	X				
Hastings	-	-	5	41	du	Southsea	-	0.07	5	41	c
Hayling I	-	-	5	41	c	Stornoway	-	0.01	9	48	du
Hove	-	-	5	41	du	Swanage	-	-	4	39	c
Hunstanton	-	-	5	41	du	Teignmouth	-	0.01	5	41	du
Isle of Man	-	-	7	45	c	Tenby	-	-	4	39	du
Jersey	X					Tiree	-	0.01	7	45	d
Kinloss	X					Torquay	-	0.01	6	43	du
Leeds	X					Ventnor	-	-	4	39	du
Lerwick	-	0.09	7	45	sh	Weymouth	-	0.01	4	39	c

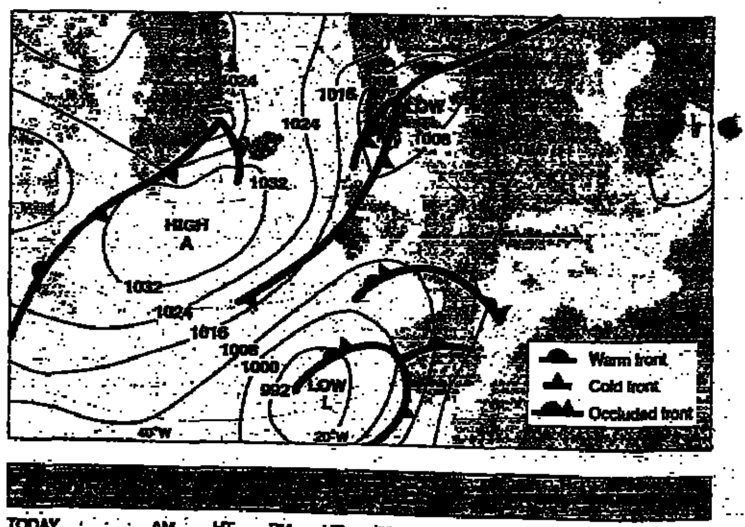
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f	Corfu	13	55	r	Majorca	15	59	f	Rome	13	55	c
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	2	36	c	Malaga	16	61	f	S Fr'sco	15	59	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	7	45	c	Malta	17	63	s	S Paulo	28	82	f
Algiers	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	9	48	c	Melb'rne	X			Salzburg	0	32	c
Amst'dm	0	32	c	Faro	16	61	c	Mexico C	19	66	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Athens	12	54	r	Florence	12	54	d	Miami	22	72	s	Seoul	8	46	f
B Aires	28	82	f	Frankfurt	2	36	s	Milan	9	48	r	Sing'por	27	81	r
Bahrain	24	75	s	Funchal	17	63	r	Montreal	-1	30	fg	St'kholm	5	41	c
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	3	37	c	Moscow	1	34	c	Strasb'rg	0	32	c
Barbados	28	82	r	Gibraltar	16	61	c	Munich	0	32	f	Sydney	21	70	f
Barcelona	12	54	s	Helsinki	5	41	c	N Delhi	18	64	s	Tangier	15	59	c
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	19	66	f	N York	3	37	s	Tel Aviv	18	64	f
Belgrade	6	43	f	Innsbrck	7	45	f	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	22	72	b
Berlin	1	34	c	Istanbul	11	52	c	Naples	12	54	f	Tokyo	14	57	s
Bermuda	16	61	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	12	54	r	Toronto	3	37	f
Biarritz	7	45	fg	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	1	34	f	Tunis	15	59	s
Borde'x	9	48	c	L Angels	17	63	c	Paris	0	32	c	Valencia	15	59	s
Brussels	0	32	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	9	48	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	f
Budapest	-1	30	c	Le Touquet	0	32	f	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	5	41	r
Cairo	21	70	f	Lisbon	12	54	c	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	1	34	c
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	7	45	r	Reykjavik	3	37	r	Warsaw	-1	30	fg
Ch'church	17	63	X	Luxembg	-2	28	c	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	4	39	f
Chicago	6	43	f	Luxor	24	75	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Cologne	1	34	c	Madrid	6	43	c	Riyadh	26	79	s	Zurich	0	32	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low I will drift slowly E and deepen; high A will be stationary and maintain central pressure; low L will drift NE and decline slightly



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:28	7.3	2:53	7.4	Leith	3:18	5.8	3:36	5.8
Aberdeen	2:06	4.4	2:20	4.5	Liverpool	-	-	12:05	9.7
Avonmouth	8:01	13.7	8:26	13.6	Lowestoft	10:19	2.6	10:33	2.6
Belfast	11:52	3.6	-	-	Margate	0:24	4.8	12:53	4.8
Cardiff	7:56	12.0	8:16	11.8	Milford Haven	6:57	7.3	7:20	7.2
Devonport	6:37	5.6	7:01	5.4	Newquay	5:45	7.0	6:08	7.0
Dover	11:41	6.9	-	-	Oban	6:28	4.1	6:40	4.0
Dublin (N Wall)	0:01	4.2	12:17	4.3	Penzance	5:18	5.7	5:40	5.6
Falmouth	5:42	5.3	6:06	5.2	Portland	7:36	2.3	8:00	2.1
Greenock	1:04	3.5	1:31	3.7	Portsmouth	-	-	12:07	4.8
Harwich	0:16	4.1	12:39	4.1	Shoreham	11:58	6.5	-	-
Holyhead	11:05	5.9	11:30	5.7	Southampton	11:30	4.8	11:58	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	7:01	7.7	7:17	7.9	Swansea	7:11	9.7	7:33	9.6
Ilfracombe	6:42	9.7	7:05	9.5	Tees	4:25	5.5	4:42	5.6
King's Lynn	6:56	7.0	7:17	7.2	Walton-on-Naze	0:12	4.3	12:35	4.3

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Sun rises: 7.57 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 6.20 pm
Moon rises: 9.08 am
First quarter December 17

London 3.52 pm to 7.58 am
Bristol 4.01 pm to 8.08 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.38 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.17 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.13 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

Shell to invest $10bn in Mexican gulf

FROM CARL MORTISHED IN NEW ORLEANS

SHELL OIL is planning to invest up to $10 billion over the next four years in deep-water oil production in the Gulf of Mexico.

The US subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch oil company has more than eight undisclosed projects in preparation that are aimed at achieving a rapid build-up in oil production over the four-year period.

Shell Oil is the largest leaseholder in water depth beyond 15,000 feet in the Gulf of Mexico, and owns more than 20 per cent of the total acreage. It also accounts for half of the developments now in progress.

Shell estimates that by 2001, oil and gas production from deep-water wells in the Gulf of Mexico will equal its current annual production of between 250 million and 300 million barrels.

The ambitious investment programme for the Gulf of Mexico marks a major turnround for the US subsidiary, which was in financial difficulties in 1992, and in the throes of a massive redundancy programme.

However, record-breaking successes in deep-water exploration encouraged Shell to raise its investment and the company now faces cash shortages. Shell's Auger and Mars developments both achieved record water depths approaching 3,000 feet. Flow rates vastly exceeded the initial targets, with Mars expected to reach 100,000 barrels per day next year.

Auger and Mars have each cost Shell more than $1 billion to develop but Jere Brew, planning and finance manager, insists that the development costs are being trimmed. Some $200 million was shaved from the initial Mars platform budget.

A reduction in the time cycle of development will also improve cash returns — from wildcat, full production took 10 years to achieve at Auger. Shell now expects the same project to be achieved in three to four years.

Shell's success in the Gulf of Mexico's deep water has been a magnet to rival oil companies seeking to exploit vast reserves, estimated to be 15 billion barrels, with the added attraction of the United States's favourable tax regime. Technological advances have enabled companies to drill and produce oil at unprecedented depths.

Both Auger and Mars were developed with tension-leg platforms. These are floating platforms tied to the seabed with mooring lines and flexible steel pipes.

Next year, Shell expects to raise the ante with a water depth production record of 5,300 feet. The Mensa field will be developed in a sub sea-production system operated by remote control from a platform 68 miles from underwater wellheads.

The increase in activity in the Gulf poses a threat for oil companies jealously guarding vital know-how. According to Mr Brew, there is a shortage of qualified staff. "There is a lot of fighting for resources. Companies are trying to get our people," he said.

☐ Oil prices fell below $23 a barrel in London yesterday as Iraq began exporting crude to Turkey for the first time in six years. Benchmark Brent crude for delivery in January was at $22.86 a barrel, down 43 cents.

Iraq is pumping oil through the pipeline at a rate of 350,000 barrels per day and next week will increase the flow to 440,000 barrels per day.

Wall Street dives but base rate protects London

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL STREET was struck by another bout of jitters yesterday and dragged down other markets in its wake. However losses in London were limited because UK base rates seem to have been left on hold for the time being.

In early afternoon trading in New York, the Dow Jones industrial average was more than 100 points lower. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was down by more than a full percentage point, boosting its yield to 6.59 per cent from 6.49 per cent on Tuesday. The dollar dropped to DM1.5365 from DM1.5530 on Tuesday.

The sudden loss of confidence marked another stage in Wall Street's nervous reaction to last week's warnings by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, about irrational market exuberance.

The latest fall was prompted partly by concern that Japanese investors may become less enthusiastic buyers of US assets. There were also rumours that IBM might issue a profits warning, but the company denied that it planned a statement.

The general air of nervousness also hit the London market but losses were not dramatic. At one point, the FT-SE 100 index fell more than 70 points but it rallied somewhat to finish the day 53.2 points lower at 3,982.5.

After yesterday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, the Bank twice dealt in the money markets at unchanged interest rates.

Mr George said in a speech in November that the Bank would normally signal a rate change on the next occasion it dealt in the markets after a monetary meeting, unless there was a "wholly overwhelming reason for delay".

London markets are now focussed on today's retail prices figures, which the Bank and Treasury would have had sight of yesterday.

In America, the latest figures showed that US producer price inflation remains subdued, with core producer prices rising only 0.1 per cent in November.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Pennington, page 27

CHRIS HARRIS

David Crossland saw profits 46 per cent up and said he had £250 million to buy abroad

Airtours gears up for travel inquiry

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

AIRTOURS has set aside £1 million and three full-time members of staff to handle the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the UK travel industry, it emerged yesterday.

However, David Crossland, chairman and chief executive of Airtours, insisted that there was no case to answer, and said that the bulk of the costs would be fees charged by lawyers and economic advisers.

Airtours, the UK's second largest tour operator, and Thomson, the market leader, are the subject of an MMC inquiry after the Office of Fair Trading last month asked the commission to investigate alleged anti-competitive practices.

Unveiling a better than expected increase in group pre-tax profits for the full year of 46 per cent to £86.8 million compared with £59.4 million, Mr Crossland said that he had £250 million to spend and hoped to make further acquisitions overseas.

The group already owns travel companies in Scandinavia and Canada, runs a UK charter airline and high street travel agency, and is about to add a third cruise ship to its successful fly-cruise programme.

The results included record profits from Scandinavia of £34.5 million (£25.1 million). Airtours is building its own timeshare complexes in Orlando, Florida, and aims to introduce long-haul travel to the Scandinavian market.

A combination of cutting capacity in the UK package market and raising holiday prices meant that margins for summer 1996 were significantly higher.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3982.5	(−53.2)
Yield	4.0%	
FTSE All share	1951.14	(−23.48)
Nikkei	20568.38	(−253.74)
New York		
Dow Jones	6268.30	(−104.95)*
S&P Composite	735.84	(−11.70)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{1}{4}$%*	($5\frac{1}{4}$%)
Long Bond	$98\frac{11}{16}$*	($100\frac{7}{32}$)
Yield	6.58%*	(6.48%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	112.95	($6\frac{5}{16}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	$109\frac{9}{32}$	($110\frac{9}{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6587*	(1.6540)
London:		
$	1.6557	(1.6517)
DM	2.5518	(2.5665)
FFr	8.6390	(8.6814)
SFr	2.1740	(2.1910)
Yen	186.85	(187.21)
£ Index	92.9	(93.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5385*	(1.5530)
FFr	5.2105*	(5.2535)
SFr	1.3103*	(1.3267)
Yen	112.80*	(113.37)
$ Index	97.8	(98.1)

Tokyo close Yen 112.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$22.05	($22.80)

GOLD

London close	$368.25	($368.35)

* denotes midday trading price

On the road

NFC, the transport group, reported a 39 per cent rise in profits but is still struggling to turn round its continental European operations. NFC lost £8.5 million on the Continent. **Tempus 28, Page 30**

Pounding

David S Smith, the paper and packaging company, warned the markets that the strength of the pound was likely to cause second-half earnings to fall below first-half levels. **Page 27**

DTI seeks ban on Team Lotus five

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has started disqualification proceedings against five former directors of Team Lotus, the Formula One racing team that failed two years ago.

Peter Hall, chairman of Industrial Control Services (ICS), the controls group, is among those named in the proceedings. Mr Hall was a non-executive director of Team Lotus, which went into administration in September 1994. The company is not connected with Group Lotus, the sports car manufacturer.

The Team Lotus assets were sold to David Hunt, who hopes to bring the Lotus name back to the grand prix circuit. Mr Hunt, brother of the late James Hunt, said: "We put everything into a new company. We're taking it back to a clean sheet of paper."

The DTI is seeking to disqualify four other former Team Lotus directors: Peter Collins, James McDougall, Peter Wright and Alan Curtis. No date has yet been fixed for an initial hearing. Mr Hall was not available yesterday, but ICS issued a statement saying he would defend the action vigorously. He has the full support of the ICS board.

Documents lodged at Companies House show Team Lotus, now renamed TLL Realisations Ltd, was in deepening trouble in the years leading up to the collapse. Pre-tax losses rose from £2.2 million to £4.9 million in the year to November 1992 — the last period in which accounts were filed.

Heron heralds £1bn investment

BY JASON NISSÉ

HERON, the property group run by Gerald Ronson, is to buy a landmark building in London and develop a chain of multiplex cinemas in Spain as part of a massive investment in property which could see the group spending up to £1 billion.

Heron was rescued from collapse in 1995 by a £142 million cash injection from a group of US-based investors including Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, the ultimate owner of *The Times*. Yesterday Heron said it was spending £100 million buying two office buildings in central London and redeveloping two buildings in Spain.

A spokesman for the company said this was the first of many transactions for Heron. "We are not constrained by our balance sheet, our investors are clear in their backing," she said. "There is not a transaction that could be described as too big."

The first of the deals is due to be announced in the new year, being the purchase of a "landmark commerical building" in London. This is expected to be followed by a joint venture to develop a chain of multiplex cinemas in Spain, probably with a US group.

Heron is also looking at the purchase of some other property companies. The focus of its investments will be in the UK, Spain and France.

Heron has about £100 million net cash, making up about half its net assets. The deal with the US investors gave them 80 per cent of the group. Mr Ronson and his long-time partner, Alan Goldman, have options over 11 per cent of the company that can be exercised in two years' time.

Pennington, page 27

Ronson: two-year options

Ordnance Survey sues AA over maps

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE Automobile Association (AA) has fallen out spectacularly with Ordnance Survey, the government-owned mapping agency, in a move that could force the destruction of thousands of AA maps.

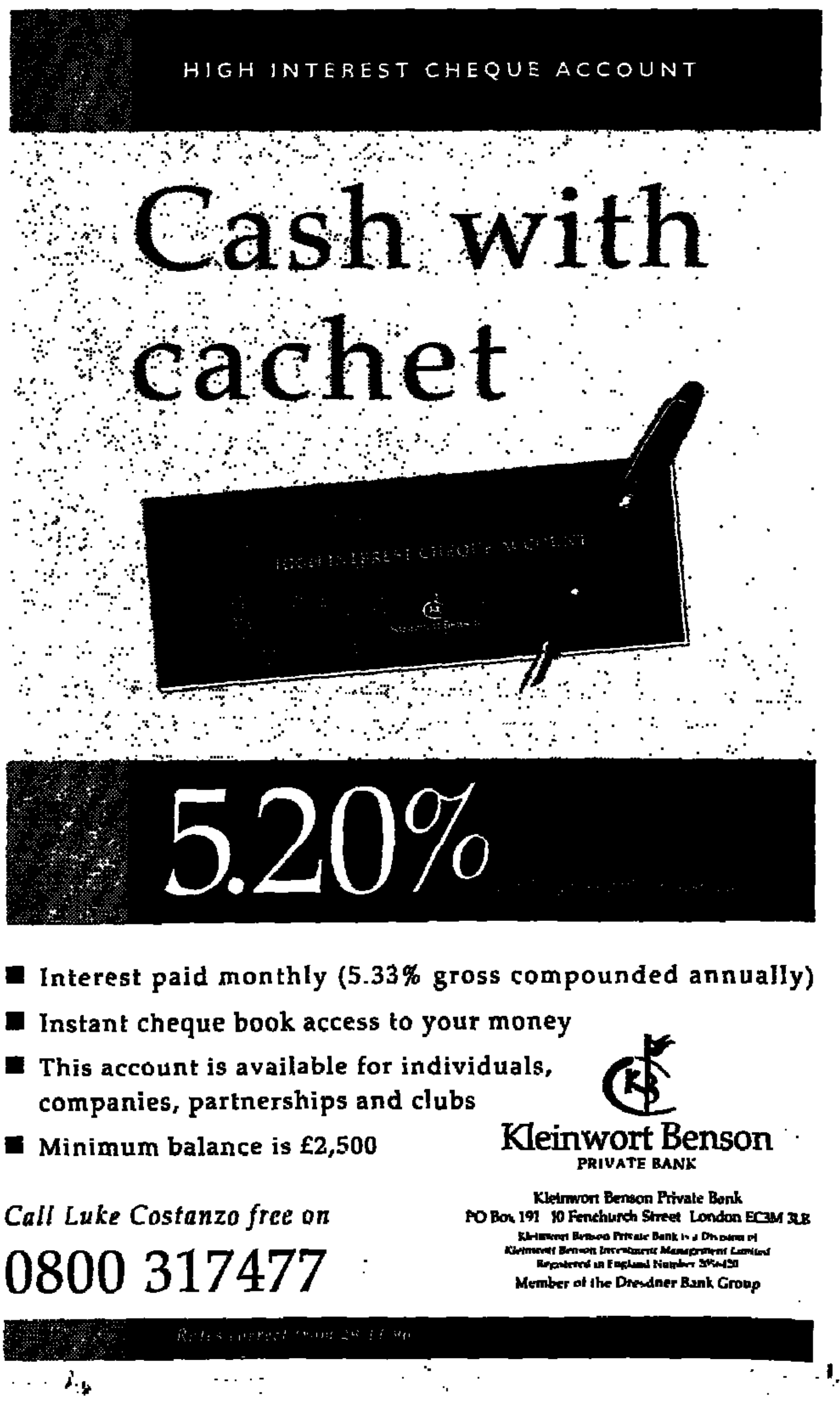
The agency is suing the AA for alleged breach of copyright. It is seeking an injunction over the AA's use of its material, together with unspecified damages and the "forfeiture or destruction" of maps, drawings and artwork.

The AA has 14 days to respond to the action, outlined in a writ lodged at the High Court. The dispute is embarrassing, given the long-standing collaboration between the parties, which publish guides under their joint names.

The agency, says Peter Johnson, AA's managing director, has admitted to using unlicensed material in relation to 50 AA town maps. The admissions were allegedly contained in two letters to David Rhind, the agency's director general and chief executive. The action refers to the *AA Road Atlas*, individual AA maps and *Thomson Local* maps, which the AA produces.

Ordnance Survey issued a statement yesterday, saying: "The AA has admitted that some 50 of its unlicensed town maps are, in fact, derived from Crown Copyright material. However, Ordnance Survey does not accept that this is the extent of the infringement and feels that it has been left with no choice other than to commence proceedings against the AA."

The AA said it was "very surprised" at the action. It had been entirely open about any "mistakes" that might have been made, and added: "Clearly, if there are any duties due to the Ordnance Survey, there's no question that any royalties will be paid."



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British Coal sells help unit

British Coal's help facility for new businesses starting in coalfield areas hit by job losses was yesterday sold for about £20 million.

British Coal Enterprise gave workspace to foster job creation to new and growing businesses on terms that did not demand long-term commitment. British Coal estimates that the scheme helped to create 130,000 job opportunities.

The operation was bought by Birkby, the specialist property company. It will double Birkby's portfolio of workspace sites for small and medium-sized businesses to 100, enabling it to cater for about 2,000 businesses.

BT agrees new rates

Orange and One-2-One, the mobile phone companies, stand to increase their revenues substantially after reaching tentative agreements with British Telecom to collect higher interconnection charges.

Starting in February, BT will pay about 17.5p a minute, excluding VAT, to complete calls on the two companies' networks during peak times. The previous rate was only 7.3p a minute. The payments for evening calls will more than double to 12p, while weekend call payments stay roughly the same at 5p. The increased payments will mean higher bills for BT customers calling Orange or One-2-One phones.

Soccer floats

Southampton Football Club's £10.1 million stock market flotation will take place via a reverse takeover by Secure Retirement, a property development group (Business News, December 11) in January. The flotation of Sunderland Football Club will take place later this month. There is a minimum subscription of 100 shares at 585p each. The club will be valued at £48 million. Terms of the separate flotations were inadvertently transposed and we apologise for the error.

Europe not competing to full potential, say industry chiefs

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

EUROPE'S competitive performance is running at "below its full potential", according to a European Commission report prepared for tomorrow's EU heads of government summit in Dublin.

But the study, prepared for Jacques Santer, the EC President, by the EC's competitiveness advisory group, also suggests that emerging countries are increasingly incapable of competing on the basis of low wages, and they endorse a clear link — opposed by Britain — between trade and minimum employment standards.

The competitiveness advisory group, a team of 12 industrialists set up by M Santer last year to produce practical recommendations to improve Europe's competitiveness, says in its final report that while Europe is well placed to take advantage of global business integration, "Europe's performance has been below its full potential, particularly in recent years."

The report says Europe has been losing market share in the world export league. In 1995, the group's fourth competitiveness report says, EU member states accounted for 19.4 per cent of total world exports, compared with 21.1 per cent in 1990. At the same time, while the US's proportion also fell back, from 16.4 per cent to 15.4 per cent, Japan's share held steady at 12 per cent.

The study group, headed by Percy Barnevik, chairman and chief executive of ABB Asea Brown Boveri, says that Europe's competitive advantage has shifted from high-technology sectors, with the exception of the UK, which was the only EU country in the 1980s to strengthen its comparative advantage in this area.

The report also suggests that "emerging markets progressively compete less and less on low wages", since increasing global trade and investment integration in such countries is associated with "extremely rapid" growth in wage levels. Manufacturing wages in South Korea, for instance, are now 43 per cent of their US counterparts, compared with 9.5 per cent only ten years ago.

Sir David Simon, BP chairman and the UK's business representative in the group, says that while Europe is doing relatively well, it could do better. But he says that Europe is increasingly adopting the UK's practices in improving its competitiveness. Sir David said: "My own judgment is that Europe has become more understanding of the type of flexibility and innovation that is necessary to capture overseas markets and that Britain has been working towards."

ADRIAN BROOKS

Michael Jeffries, left, and Rick Piper, financial director, have seen the Atkins order book swell to £180 million

Staff share in Atkins success

By Fraser Nelson

MORE than 2,500 employees of WS Atkins have made thousands of pounds since the engineering consultancy floated five months ago. On top of paper profits of £26,700 a head, on average they stand to pick up dividend payments of £1,340 a year.

Staff own about 55 per cent of the shares, which have soared from 215p to 350p since flotation. Yesterday the company declared a 2.25p dividend to be paid on January 7, worth £495 to the average employee shareholder. With the final payout normally double the interim, employees can expect a further £890.

Michael Jeffries, chief executive, said: "We have always encouraged our employees to take a stake in the company, and I'm delighted that they can share in the success."

Atkins decided to raise the dividend after a stream of new orders in the six months to September 30 left its order books at £180 million — more than its entire turnover for the period. Costs of joining the stock market in July were £1.5 million, leaving pre-tax profits slightly behind last time at £9.35 million (£9.59 million) on sales 50 per cent stronger at £153 million (£105 million). Earnings were 7p (5.8p).

Mr Jeffries said the company is now looking to spend around £35 million on an acquisition and is already in talks with a number of potential targets.

BBC calls for BSkyB to share technology

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

THE introduction of digital television in Britain could be delayed for years if the Government allows BSkyB, the satellite TV company, to establish a monopoly over digital technology, the BBC said yesterday.

In a written response to the Department of Trade and Industry draft guidelines on digital TV, the corporation called on the Government to oblige BSkyB to license its proprietory digital decoder technology and standards to other broadcasters. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

Patricia Hodgson, director of policy and planning at the BBC, said digital TV was most likely to succeed if consumers had to buy a single set-top decoder used by all broadcasters. If TV companies were forced to set up digital delivery systems in competition with BSkyB, the risks would be greater and the launch of a wide range of digital TV services would be put back.

While sharing the BBC's concerns about BSkyB's potential dominance, the ITV companies, like many in the industry, do not believe that the kind of mandatory licensing proposed by the BBC is a realistic option. They believe that market forces will ensure the emergence of a single set-top box standard.

BSkyB has expressed concern that current guidelines, obliging set-top box operators to give fair, non-discriminatory access for other service providers, are already among the toughest in the world.

ITV and BSkyB will give evidence to the Heritage Select Committee's inquiry into the future of broadcasting today.

Digital TV on pause, page 29

Premiership clubs pursue money goals

By Jason Nissé

MANCHESTER UNITED and Chelsea Village, respective owners of the Premiership clubs, yesterday used the market buoyancy in football shares to raise funds to help to pay for redevelopment.

Merrill Lynch, United's stockbrokers, placed 3 million shares at 585p to bring in £17.5 million, which will be used for the completion of the north stand at Old Trafford and the purchase of land for a new training complex. In addition, Amer Al Midani, one of United's directors, sold 600,000 shares at 558p, cutting his holding to 1.1 per cent of the group. United shares rose 6½p to 584p on the news.

David Beswitherick, United's financial controller, said the strength of the share price meant it was "daft" not to raise money from the market to cover capital expenditure so that borrowing facilites could be kept to buy players.

Chelsea raised a more modest £825,000 through a share placing at 110p, the first stage of raising the £10 million required to rebuild the south stand at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea is expected to need between £30 million and £50 million for redevelopment in the next three years.

Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	18.94	17.44
Belgium Fr	55.57	51.27
Canada $	2.357	2.197
Cyprus Cyp£	0.805	0.750
Denmark Kr	10.34	9.54
Finland Mkk	8.21	7.56
France Fr	9.04	8.39
Germany Dm	2.70	2.49
Greece Dr	420	395
Hong Kong $	13.42	12.42
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.72	5.07
Italy Lira	2633	2478
Japan Yen	200.80	184.80
Malta	0.636	0.581
Netherlds Gld	3.012	2.782
New Zealand $	2.52	2.30
Norway Kr	11.20	10.40
Portugal Esc	269.50	251.00
S Africa Rd	8.30	7.50
Spain Pta	222.00	209.00
Sweden Kr	11.86	11.06
Switzerland Fr	2.31	2.13
Turkey Lira	180050	168050
USA $	1.752	1.622

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Halifax job changes ahead of flotation

HALIFAX Building Society has appointed a deputy chief executive as part of a reshuffle before its planned flotation. Gren Folwell, managing director since the merger with the Leeds, will focus on long-term strategy and risk management in his new role. The move will allow Mike Blackburn, chief executive, to foster relations with institutional investors.

Halifax also announced five new directors to cover mortgages, liquid credit, retail banking and consumer credit, general insurance, long-term savings and protection and treasury. Only two, finance director Roger Boyes, who takes on treasury, and John Miller, new housing and technology director, worked for Leeds. Judie Atchison, former head of product and marketing at Leeds, is to leave in February after John Lee's appointment as personnel and services director. Banking and savings goes to Mike Ellis, while financial services director James Crosby adds insurance to his role.

Aon expects charge

AON CORPORATION has said it expects to take a charge against earnings of about $100 million in the 1997 first quarter after its $1.23 billion purchase of Alexander & Alexander Services. The deal, which was announced yesterday, follows Aon Corporation's purchase of Bain Hogg, the UK broker, for £160 million from Inchcape in October. It will create a huge insurance broker, employing almost 40,000 people. Aon said there would be some redundancies.

Faure chooses Gwent

BERTRAND FAURE, the French company that is one of the world's largest makers of car seats, is investing £12 million on a new factory at Tredegar, Gwent, that will create 300 jobs. Robin Lewis, the Welsh Development Agency's deputy chairman, said: "This investment will strengthen Wales's growing automotive components sector." The Welsh automotive industry comprises around 200 companies, employing over 20,000 people and generating revenue worth £1.7 billion.

Kingfisher sells stakes

KINGFISHER, the UK retailing group that owns Woolworths, is to sell its 50 per cent stake in Staples UK, the office products supplier, to Staples Inc, its American joint venture partner, for £23.5 million. The company is also selling its 40 per cent stake in Maxi-Papier, which trades from 16 stores in Germany, for DM16.6 million to Staples. Kingfisher, which also owns B&Q and Superdrug, said both companies being sold incurred losses in the year to February 3.

IMS plans to raise £5m

IMS GROUP, the telephone services company that specialises in sports news, plans to raise about £5 million by floating in late January. The sale should value the company at about £40 million, said Bill Wilson, the IMS chairman who was part of a management team that bought the company from William Hill Leisure for £13.7 million in 1992. IMS, which had operating profits of £3.3 million on turnover of £12.4 million last year, will use the flotation money to fund acquisitions.

Shaftesbury share issue

SHAFTESBURY, the property company that recently agreed to buy much of Carnaby Street in central London, yesterday announced a £36.5 million share issue to help to finance the £90 million deal. The company, which owns the Chinatown estate in the West End, is raising the money through a three-for-eight rights issue priced at 137p a share. Shaftesbury announced a 5.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.9 million for the year to September 30. A final dividend of 1.25p makes a total of 2p (1.5p).

First Technology ahead

THE popularity of dashboard airbags boosted profits at First Technology, the car safety group that commands 80 per cent of the world market for crash-test dummies. In the six months to October 31, pre-tax profits were 28 per cent ahead at £4.2 million. Earnings were 17.2p per share (13.5p). The company says its order book is at record levels and could improve further if US car manufacturers switch to low-power airbags. The interim dividend, due on March 3, is raised to 4.2p (3.2p).

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The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)

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هكذا من الاصل

☐ Property pursuit prompts a question ☐ Tour operators' tactics pay off ☐ No justification for stock market gyrations

Ronson's rebound gathers pace

☐ SIR John Quinton, then chairman of Barclays, now chairman of football's Premier League, described him as the finest businessman of our generation. Mr Justice Henry, the judge in the Guinness trial, was less complimentary when he imprisoned him for his role in the secret share support operation during Guinness's bid for Distillers. But love him or hate him, there is no doubting Gerald Ronson's survival instincts and his ability to bounce back.

Mr Ronson's property group, Heron, was saved from a spectacular crash by a massive restructuring, costing £70 million in fees, and a rescue by American investors led by Steven Green, the leveraged buyout specialist. Now, after licking his wounds for a couple of years and selling some of his prize possessions, Mr Ronson is back in a big way. "No deal is too big," he says. You don't know whether to cheer or run for the hills.

As before, Heron is planning a three-pronged attack. And, as before, two of those prongs are in the UK and Spain. However, the third is not America, where Heron came spectacularly to grief in the Arizona desert, but France, where it has attempted to buy properties from the appropriately named insurance group MACIF.

On the shopping list are a trophy building in London, leisure developments in Spain and a few property companies, some of which might even be quoted (watch out Greycoat). Rumours that he tried to buy Canary Wharf for upwards of £700 million, rubbished a few months ago, are now being said to be true. The US investors say they have deep pockets, and the banks, which have found a renewed desire to put up money for property development, are willing to sign cheques.

For those who have lived through a couple of property crashes, it all seems achingly familiar. But the interesting question is what point have we reached? If Mr Ronson is right, we could be at a relatively early point in the upswing and a quite healthy boom is in prospect.

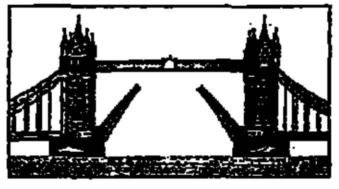
He has his supporters in the market place. The likes of Burford, headed by Nigel Wray and Nick Leslau, and Chelsfield, run by the suavely well-connected Elliott Bernerd, are snapping up all sorts of development opportunities. Shopping centres and leisure developments have been all the rage and institutional investors, sensing the equity market could be on the turn, like the prosect of investing in property in an environment showing low interest rates and gradual economic recovery. Admittedly we have not seen the property traders return yet, but give them time.

And even the prospect of a Labour government does not seem to be putting these guys off. Most of the investment earmarked by Heron will occur after a general election, presumably under Tony Blair's first administration. A property boom under Labour? Stranger things have happened.

The price of market share

☐ ONLY three years ago UK tour operators were hell-bent on increasing their market share. In the pursuit of sales volumes they slashed prices, undercut rivals and discounted deeply. Thomson, the market leader, began each season saying it would not be beaten on price and would not concede market share.

PENNINGTON



The culmination of all this competitive activity was the disastrous trading year of 1995, the worst in the industry for a decade. Operators found themselves with three million unsold holidays to shift. Profits plunged and operators, sadder and wiser, vowed in future to try to match supply with demand.

The three biggest players, Thomson, Airtours and First Choice, cut capacity and raised prices in an attempt to sell packages at the end of the 1996 season as close as possible to full price. For Airtours, unveiling a 46 per cent increase in pre-tax profit yesterday, the tactic appears to have paid off. David Crossland, chairman, declared he was content with a market share of 20 per cent of the £7 billion UK holiday industry and had no wish to expand it further. Instead he was looking overseas.

Meanwhile, Thomson has been unofficially put up for sale by its Canadian parent, The Thomson Corporation. In such circumstances it has a vested interest in demonstrating a steady profit stream to potential suitors, rather than a roller-coaster ride of soaring market share and falling yields.

Tour operators' margins — at best a mere 6 per cent — are slim compared with some other sectors. Having increased them this year, Airtours is loathe to watch them fall again. The combination of higher holiday prices and forecasts of increased consumer spending mean the prospects for earnings growth now look their best for several years.

However, it will be a year before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reaches a decision on whether the industry's practices are anti-competitive.

In the meantime, Mr Crossland has seen evidence of consumers "trading up" from modest Spanish holidays to long-haul destinations. Guess where building society windfalls are being spent?

Wall Street wobbles

☐ THE odd 100-point rise or fall in the Dow Jones industrial average really is not a big deal when the index is trading in the heady environs of 6,000 points, however cavalier that assertion may seem to nervous investors. Extravagant comment on yesterday's gyrations on Wall Street should be treated with more caution than usual for there really was no new reason for the latest wobble in confidence.

The justifications rolled out for another bout of profit-taking included so far unsubstantiated rumours that IBM was about to issue a profit warning and musings in *The Wall Street Journal*'s widely-read Heard on the Street (or Heard over Lunch) column that Japanese investors may stop buying US Treasury bonds in such great volumes. IBM's welfare still has an almost religious significance in New York, but this seemed to be just the kind of rumour that surfaces when a canny player wants to see the market drop. As for warnings about Japanese appetite for US bonds, the executive at Goldman Sachs to whom they were attributed yesterday played down their import.

There was also concern about this week's rather dismal US trade figures and nervousness about yesterday's producer prices figures — which turned out to be as benign as ever. But yesterday's jitters were really a tiny aftershock to Alan Greenspan's remarks about irrational market exuberance last week, and the nerves also reflect an understandable desire not to ruin an excellent year for investment in stocks right at the last minute. Next year is another matter.

The good old days

☐ CHELSEA VILLAGE, the owner of the eponymous football club, is issuing £22,000 worth of shares to its stockbroking adviser, the well-known firm of Ellis & Partners, of Crawley in Sussex, in lieu of fees on a share placing. The move is described as a return to the way things were done in the 1970s. For Chelsea the 1970s was an era of drunken players, hooligan fans and near bankruptcy. Good times?

David S Smith fears impact of sterling

By Alasdair Murray

DAVID S SMITH, the paper and packaging company, gave warning yesterday that the strength of the pound was likely to cause second-half earnings to slip below first-half levels.

Peter Williams, chief executive, said the high level of sterling was making the UK a more attractive market for European exporters — many of which still have excess capacity. He added that trading conditions throughout Europe were likely to remain difficult with the economies only gently showing signs of recovery.

Mr Williams's comments came after David S Smith announced flat half-year profits of £58.6 million. Turnover also remained static at £615 million. Shares of the company fell 10½p to 296p as analysts slightly downgraded full-year profit predictions after the warning.

The group's operating profit margin slipped from 10.8 per cent to 10.2 per cent. Turnover in the packaging division fell 4 per cent to £420 million, after a fall in pricing levels, while profits fell 6 per cent to £52 million. The company said that the French market was especially weak with volumes in corrugated paper falling 2 per cent in the first ten months of 1996, and the paperboard market flat.

The company added that new waste paper regulations, which are expected to come into effect next year, will have a positive impact on the UK waste paper collection industry. The office products division increased turnover 10 per cent to £196 million, while profits rose slightly from £10.5 million to £10.7 million. The company said John Dickinson, which was acquired for £17 million in August, made a small loss in line with expectations.

Gearing was reduced to 23 per cent from 27 per cent at the last year end. The interim dividend rises 6 per cent to 2.6p, payable on March 10.

Tempus, page 28

Greene King to shed jobs

ABOUT 130 jobs are to be lost in the reorganisation of the brewing division of Greene King, it was announced yesterday (Alasdair Murray writes).

The restructuring will give rise to exceptional charges of £14 million, mainly relating to the closure or sale of the company's brewhouse in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

Greene King expects to make a number of non-core disposals in the next year, raising about £20 million to reduce borrowings, which total £176 million after the £197 million acquisition of the Magic Pub chain.

The Magic Pub chain helped to boost half-year profits, before tax and exceptionals, by 38 per cent to £15.2 million.

The company added that its retail division had created 300 jobs in 1996 and it is confident of expanding at similar rate next year.

The interim dividend was increased 12 per cent to 4.75p, payable on February 3.

Bulmers in seasonal sales push

HP BULMER, the cider company, is launching its biggest a Christmas marketing blitz (Alasdair Murray writes).

Bulmer intends to spend £400,000 on promoting White Lightning, its newly acquired white cider, as well as its other brands, which include Strongbow and Woodpecker.

The company yesterday unveiled an 8 per cent increase in half-year profits before tax and exceptional items to £17.4 million. Overall turnover increased 19 per cent to £163 million. There was a slight decrease in like-for-like group margins to 12.5 per cent because of increased marketing expenditure.

Exceptional costs totalled £700,000, mainly relating to redundancies and restructuring at Inch's.

John Rudguard, chief executive, said Bulmers planned to implement an average 5 per cent price increase on its ciders early next year.

The interim dividend was raised 7.7 per cent to 4.9p a share, payable on February 17.

Ofwat approves Dee Valley's takeover plan

OFWAT, the water industry regulator, has given its approval to Dee Valley Water's proposed £20.3 million takeover of the neighbouring Chester Water (Christine Buckley writes).

The companies and the regulator have agreed that bills are to be reduced by 3.5 per cent over the existing price cap from April 2001. At present customers of Wrexham Water, which is owned by Dee Valley, pay an average £130, while Chester Water users pay £106. Moves to harmonise the bills are likely, though Chester Water customers will expect to see some savings.

With assets of less than £30 million, both companies are small enough to escape automatic referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The merger proposal comes as the industry awaits the decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the proposed bid by two French companies for Mid Kent. Meanwhile, Cambridge Water has announced plans for a £4 million buyback of 10 per cent of its shares.

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STOCK MARKET CLARE STEWART

Wall Street's worries put London on the defensive

Peter Williams, of David S Smith, which fell 7p to 299½

ALMOST £11 billion was wiped of British shares yesterday as a renewed bout of American inspired worries hit confidence. The FT-SE 100 fell back through the key 4,000 level ahead of an expected sell-off on the Dow Jones and at its lowest was down by 72 points.

Despite the Dow's sharp fall London shares steadied in afternoon trading and clawed back some ground to close at 3,982.5, a fall of 53.2 points.

Yesterday's slide on Wall Street was seen as a reaction to a number of negative factors, including the record current account deficit figures released earlier in the week.

"The US reaction underlines concerns about the prospects for Wall Street," said one London broker.

Dealers are bracing themselves for further uncertainty today ahead of inflation figures in the UK and retail sales figures in the US. But as the market winds down to Christmas, investors are expected to sit tight.

Airtours, the holiday group, managed to get away from it all, after reporting better than expected profits and an upbeat report on winter and summer bookings. The shares added 11½p to 714p, a high for the year.

Oil stocks were also in demand. **Burmah Castrol** led the FT-SE 100 pack yesterday, rising 20p to £10.83½ on positive talk from brokers while **Enterprise Oil** moved up 6½p to 594p, before closing unchanged at 587½p.

Among banks **HSBC**, owner of the Midland Bank, was hit by weakness in the Far East, and fell 44½p to £12.46. **Bank of Scotland** was also down despite encouraging broker comment, and ended 8½p lower at 288p. **Abbey National** fell back to end 5p lower at 703½p.

Cambridge Water announced a 10 per cent share buyback plan which helped to lift its shares 3p higher to 255p. Shares in **Chester Water** climbed 11p to 165p after revealing a proposed £20.3 million merger with **Dee Valley Water**. The offer values Chester shares at 169.26p. Dee Valley was unchanged at 420p.

NFC dipped 5p to 175p, despite improved year-end figures while **First Technology** added 15½p to 672½p after strong first-half figures.

Bid speculation pushed **Imperial Tobacco** 2½p higher to 381p, with Philip Morris and BAT tipped as predators.

GUS tumbled 20p to 626p, while **Argos** lost 21½ to 763p. Demand for **Allders**, after its strong figures earlier in the week, helped to limit the damage, and it closed just 1p off at 145p.

Kingfisher, the Woolworth to Comet group, was 9½p lower at 626p. It is to sell its stakes in two office supply groups, Staples in the US and Maxi-Papier in Germany, for £30 million in cash.

Hanson fell 3½p to 80p as the worst-performing FT-SE 100 share with Rolls-Royce just behind with a 10p fall to 238½p.

Insurers were also rattled by the implications of US group Aon's $1.23 billion offer for Alexander & Alexander. **Sedgwick** ended off 5p at 122½p while **Willis Corroon** slipped 4½p to 129½p.

Thorntons, the high street chocolate retailer, bucked the trend and added 4½p to 202, to touch a three-year high.

David S Smith, paper and packaging group, recovered some ground to close 7p lower at 299½p after Peter Williams, chief executive, warned the market that the strength of sterling and difficult market conditions would hit second-half results. Analysts have trimmed estimates to around £113 million.

Strong demand for **Stagecoach**, the bus and train group, powered the price ahead 25p to 686p, a high for the year.

Cookson, the industrial materials group, slipped 6½p to 211p after announcing the sale of its US pigments business for a £30 million net loss.

Further disposals by **Caradon**, completing the sale of non-core businesses in Europe, left shares in the building products group 7p lower at 231½p.

RJB Mining rallied after its fall earlier in the week and climbed 4½p higher to 377p.

Shares in **Greene King**, the brewing and pub group, dipped 4½p lower to 659p after news of its restructuring plans costing £14 million and 132 jobs. Interim results at the top end of expectations failed to stir **H P Bulmer**. The shares slid 2½p to 542½p after lifting pre-tax profits by 8.4 per cent to £17.4 million.

SEP Industrial Holdings fell 9p to 41p. Pre-tax profits edged ahead to £5.95 million but weakness at its Jaton subsidiary may affect the result for the current year.

Shares in **WS Atkins** were unmoved at 350p. The support services group, which came to the market in July, lifted pre-tax profits by 23 per cent to £10.7 million in the first half.

Braving the choppy market conditions was new entrant **SDX Business Systems**, which was placed at 160p and notched up a 12½p premium. AIM-quoted **Chelsea Village**, where 750,000 shares were placed at 110, closed unchanged at 117½p.

Manchester United climbed 6½p to 584p after raising £16 million with a placing of three million shares at 558p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The market came under selling pressure after the sharp falls in equity markets in Europe and the US.

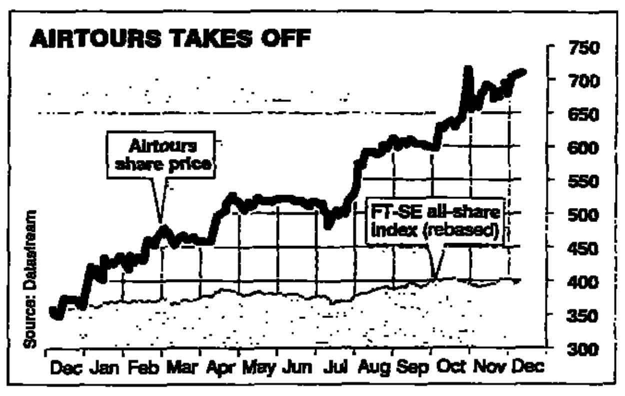
London outperformed other European bond markets, said brokers, but volumes remained fairly low with dealers holding back until today US and UK economic data.

In futures the long gilt added £28/32 to £109 9/32 with 62,000 contracts. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 slipped 5/16 to £102 31/32 while the 8 per cent 2015 was down £1⅛ to £102 19/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street came under pressure on worries that Japanese investors might reduce their holdings. There were also rumours of an imminent profits warning from IBM. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 104.95 points down at 6,368.30.

Courtaulds fell 10p to £15.26 while Pilkington dipped 2p to 590p ahead of confirmation that both are to leave the FT-SE 100 index from Monday. Moving up to replace them are Mercury Asset Management and Hays, the first management buyout to be included in the index of the 100 largest companies.

AIRTOURS TAKES OFF



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6368.30 (-104.95)
S&P Composite	733.84 (-11.70)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20568.38 (-253.74)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13189.60 (-152.86)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	610.56 (-11.77)
Sydney:	
AO	2359.3 (-2.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2841.05 (-49.95)
Singapore:	
Straits	2192.45 (-17.05)
Brussels:	
General	10365.94 (-81.19)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2213.28 (-38.12)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	825.60 (-3.30)
London:	
FT 30	2751.7 (-31.2)
FT 100	3982.5 (-53.2)
FTSE Mid 250	4366.8 (-45.1)
FTSE 350	1978.7 (-25.2)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1854.05 (-23.60)
FT All-Share	1951.14 (-23.48)
FT Non Financials	2030.91 (-22.13)
FT Fixed Interest	116.41 (-0.13)
FT Govt Secs	94.08 (-0.42)
Bargains	35717
SEAQ Volume	830.4m
USM (Datastrm)	190.38 (-0.39)
US$	1.6559 (+0.0043)
German Mark	2.5516 (-0.0147)
Exchange Index	92.9 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3194
£:SDR	1.1501
RPI	153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Access Plus (90)	100½	...
Advanced Power Cm	79½	...
Archer Dedicated	100	...
Brands Hatch Leis	182½	- 3
Britt Allcroft	145½	- 1
Cadcentre	227½	- 2
Car Group	165½	+ 3
Charterhouse (5)	6½	...
Dawn Til Dusk	121½	...
Druid Grp	314½	...
Exeter Inv	97½	...
Finsbury Intl Hedge	613	- 1½
First Russian Frts C	577½	...
Future Int Tele (115)	125	- 1½
Goshawk Insce	122½	...
Grantchester Hldgs	129	- 1½
Kern River	50½	...
Oliver Ashworth	130½	- 1
Parkwood Holdings	75½	...
Provend (125)	126½	...
Recycling Servs	98½	...
SDX Business Sys	172½	...
Scot Highland Htls	138	...
Second St David Inc	110½	...
Second St David Res	9½	...
Second St David Z Pf	184½	...
Semple Cochrane	215	...
Snakeboard (3)	3½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Coll n/p (118)	9½	...
Auken n/p (5)	1½	...
Biocompatibles n/p	205	- 15
Bodycote n/p (600)	108½	- 1½
INVESCO Uts n/p	45	- 3
More Group n/p (600)	9½	- 2
Regalian Prps n/p (30)	½	- ¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Eve Group	160p (+12½)
Dudley Jenkins	170p (+11p)
Stagecoach	686p (+25p)

FALLS:

Chemring	290p (-45p)
Real Time	225p (-15p)
Blick	358p (-15p)
Danka Bs Sys	565p (-22½p)
Prudential	468p (-15p)
GUS	626p (-20p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

NFC's continental drift

Having been pleasantly surprised by NFC's interim results, it was business as usual yesterday with the full-year figures. Yes, the changes at the trucking group driven by Gerry Murphy, chief executive, are on the way. Overall margins rose from 4 to 4.9 per cent and cost controls have cut capital spending by 57 per cent. After stripping out the bulky exceptionals of the previous year a 39 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £105.7 million is strong enough.

But no, continental Europe, which contributes just £373 million of the group's £2.46 billion turnover, still gives cause for concern. Chief culprit is France, where the list of problems is embarrassingly long. Market conditions deteriorated, the creation of a national network incurred large costs, fuel prices went up and productivity went down.

By the time the lorry drivers decided to take to the streets, after the year end, NFC must have been wondering whether the French operation was worth the bother. Given that NFC cites "the high costs of withdrawal" as one of the two reasons for hanging on, it is reasonable to assume that pulling out was at least considered.

The City awaits confirmation that the continental problems are under control and evidence of further growth in NFC's core businesses. Current-year forecasts have been pegged back to £120-£122 million to allow for exchange rates, which, had they been applied at their current level to the last year, would have knocked £2 million off profits. Dividend growth is also likely to be limited, with cover now at 1.0 before pensions credit and exceptionals. The stock looks fairly priced.

David S Smith

DAVID S SMITH, the paper and packaging company, has been hit by an unfortunate pincer movement.

The high pound is hurting sterling profits from Europe, while, at the same time, it is making the British market more attractive to hard-pressed European paper manufacturers desperate to use up their excesses of capacity.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the company chose to couch yesterday's half-year results in cautious terminology, warning investors that it will be hard-pressed to match the results performance during the second half.

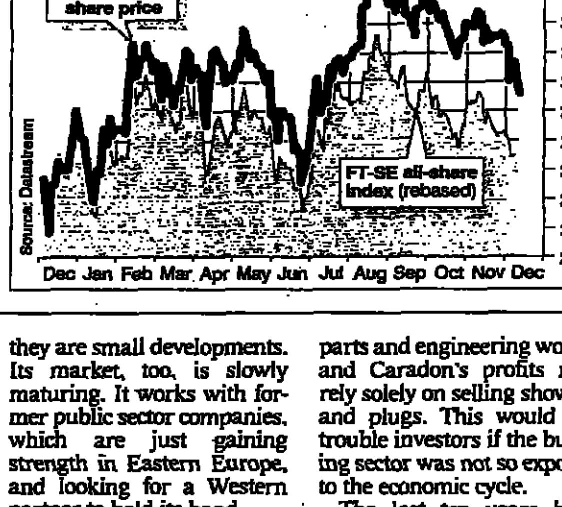
The company has also had to bear other annoyances, such as the French lorry drivers' strike, which is likely to harm profits in the short term.

As a result of all the above problems the company's share price has stagnated for more than a year.

But David S Smith still has a good medium-term outlook, especially once the recovery expected in Europe starts to kick in. This is expected to happen over the next year or two. The company's strong position in corrugated paper should work in its favour with a shortage of production forecast during the next few years.

Any gaps that appear in the portfolio can be quickly and cheaply covered by bolt-on acquisitions. On a longer term view the shares still look cheap.

BOXED IN BY EUROPE



Source: Datastream

W S Atkins

WS ATKINS is an unlikely champion for the stakeholding ideal but the former family run company is putting into practice the employee shareholder visions much espoused by the blue chip companies.

At first glance, through, it seems the company is approaching the end of a short burst of profits energy. It has made a substantial chunk of its profits from a handful of mega-buck contracts, which are reaching the end of their life spans.

The order book is full enough, but no comparable replacements have been found. The City looks concerned, and has not marked its shares any higher.

But Atkins is playing a much longer term game. Its contract for the Al Yamamah defence and Chicago Beach Hotel, sprang from much smaller-scale consultancy work. Atkins' strategy is to net the big contracts while they are small developments. Its market, too, is slowly maturing. It works with former public sector companies, which are just gaining strength in Eastern Europe, and looking for a Western partner to hold its hand.

Meanwhile, the company is under no pressure to spend its £35 million set asided for acquisitions. Its employees are happy to watch its small corporate acorns give way to tall oak trees, and not one has so far bailed out. Given that the employees own the majority of Aitkins' equity, the company is unlikely to be blown off course.

Caradon

CARADON has completed its move to focus on the building sector but this is not necessarily a step forwards.

Peter Jansen, the chief executive, has been discarding most of his baskets and is now left with all his eggs stacked together.

Gone are the automotive parts and engineering works, and Caradon's profits now rely solely on selling showers and plugs. This would not trouble investors if the building sector was not so exposed to the economic cycle.

The last ten years have been a rollercoaster ride — exciting at first, then scary and now downright depressing. While economies around the globe are growing, the stubborn building sectors remain slow.

Mr Jansen was rightly criticised for the group's previous lack of focus — or at least for being unable to instil some drive into the unfocused businesses.

Now that the group has been trimmed down, the next step is to increase the geographical spread. Caradon recently raised its stake in Germany's Weru. However, this is only a partial solution to the problem of extreme cyclicality. The rolling and coasting will continue and investors who do not enjoy the ride should get off.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	880-871	Mar	1001-999
Mar	931-930	May	1013 SLR
May	950-949	Jul	1023 SLR
Jul	965-964	Sep	1036-1033
Sep	981-980		
Dec	990-989		Volume: 1962

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1334-1331	Sep	1207-1205
Mar	1265-1262	Nov	1204-1200
May	1220-1217	Jan	1210-1190
Jul	1210-1207		Volume: 3203

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	297.5-96.6
Spot n/a		Dec	299.5-97.5
Mar	298.0-97.5	Mar	302.5-97.5
May	297.5-97.0	May	304.5-98.5
Aug	299.5-98.6		Volume: 690

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 10

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	90.77	134.09	108.86
(+/-)	-5.09	-2.17	+1.31
Eng/Wales	90.24	134.82	106.11
(+/-)	-5.80	-2.29	-0.95
(%)	-29.0	+10.0	-15.0
Scotland	97.70	131.24	117.33
(+/-)	-4.77	-1.70	+7.99
(%)	-15.0	-10.0	+2.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	22.80	-1.10
Brent 15 day (Jan)	22.50	-1.10
Brent 15 day (Feb)	22.05	-1.00
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	23.70	-1.00
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	23.25	-1.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	211 (-9)	214 (-9)
Gasoil EEC	211 (-11)	212 (-11)
3.5 Fuel Oil	113 (-1)	115 (-1)
Naphtha	220 (-8)	222 (-8)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	202.75-03.00	Mar	194.75-95.00
Jan	204.75-05.00	Apr	188.00-88.25
Feb	200.75 SLR		Vol: 38610

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	22.50-22.55	Apr	20.99 BID
Feb	22.06-22.07	May	20.50 SLR
Mar	21.49-21.51		Vol: 29084

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	94.85	Jan	93.75
Mar	97.00	Mar	95.00
May	98.85	May	96.25
Jul	100.00	Sep	92.50
Sep	93.10	Nov	94.50
Volume: 196		Volume: 24	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	50.0
Apr	60.0	60.5
May	62.0	63.5
		Volume: 50

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 80.00-80.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 96	1495	1485	1490
Jan 97	1430	1400	1425
Feb 97	1400	1385	1395
Apr 97	1480	1475	1475
Vol: 184 lots		Open interest: 3761	

Index 1477 +7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2290.0-2295.0	2154.0-2155.0	137575
Lead ($/tonne)	669.00-670.00	678.00-679.00	302025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1024.5-1025.5	1050.0-1050.5	552875
Tin ($/tonne)	5780.0-5785.0	5815.0-5820.0	39915
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1484.0-1484.5	1510.5-1511.0	1043850
Nickel ($/tonne)	6680.0-6685.0	6780.0-6785.0	59908

Rudolf Wolff

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	420	19	33	37½	6	13	20½
(*429½)	460	3½	15	19	31½	35½	43½
ASDA	110	11	13	15½	0½	2½	3
(*117½)	120	4	6½	9½	3½	6½	7
Boots	600	18½	35½	45	9½	17½	23
(*611½)	650	2	13½	21½	44	47	55½
Br Airways	550	40½	57	65	3½	12½	19½
(*584½)	600	10	28½	37	23½	32½	42½
BP	650	33½	46½	56½	10½	22½	28½
(*686½)	700	9½	24½	33	37	49½	55
Br Steel	160	10½	16	19	1½	4½	9
(*164)	180	1½	6½	9½	17½	14½	20
C & W	420	33½	44½	53½	3½	9½	16½
(*447½)	460	10	22	32½	18½	25½	34
CU	600	50	64	68	3	19½	20½
(*648)	650	20½	38	40	20½	44½	44½
ICI	750	46	60	66½	4½	20	25
(*786½)	800	14	31	41	22½	45½	51½
Land Sec	700	27	43	51	9½	11	21½
(*718½)	750	5½	16	23½	32	36½	48½
M & S	460	31	40½	49	1½	7	11½
(*486½)	500	7½	20½	26	17½	23½	29½
Nat West	650	29	40	49½	10	29½	36½
(*664½)	700	7½	17½	27½	39	61½	67
Safeway plc	360	22	34	39½	4	10	17½
(*377)	390	7	18	23½	18	24	31
Sainsbury	330	20½	37	41	1	4½	9½
(*356)	360	7	18	22½	9½	19½	23
Shell	950	35½	54	63	11½	28½	35
(*973)	1000	10	29	36½	33	54	61½
Smkl Bch	900	33	55½	68½	19	36½	43
(*884)	850	13	33½	46	47½	64	70
Storehse	300	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	130	0	—	—	0	—	—
Trafalgar	50	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	61	104½	130	27½	66½	83½
(*1621½)	1700	22½	58	84	88	122	138½
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
BAT Ind	460	34	49	53½	1½	20½	25
(*495½)	500	11½	24½	33	23	41	47
Vodafone	240	12½	22	26½	5½	9½	14½
(*246½)	260	3½	12	17	16½	23	24½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met	420	22½	30½	38	10½	16½	21
(*436½)	460	4½	13	19½	36½	40	43½
Ladbroke	200	20	23½	27	2½	6½	9
(*216)	220	7½	12½	16	9½	15½	17½
Utd Bisc	180	22½	25½	27½	1	5	6½
(*199½)	200	9½	13½	16½	7½	14	15½

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	28	40½	49½	2½	9	14½
(*482½)	500	5½	18	25½	20	27½	32½
Thames W.	550	31½	47½	56½	4	13½	26½
(*574)	600	6	21	30	29	38	53½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BTR	240	21	25	29½	3½	9½	11
(*254)	260	10	14½	19	11½	19½	21
Br Aero	1100	53½	75	96	20½	37½	46
(*1121½)	1150	28	49½	69	45½	62	70
Br Telcm	360	29½	35	40	5½	9½	17½
(*387½)	390	9½	18	24	18½	23	32
Cadbury	460	31½	37½	44	4	13	17½
(*482)	500	10½	16	24	22	34	39½
Guinness	420	22½	29½	33½	10	17	21
(*427½)	460	5½	11	16	34	42	45
GEC	360	15	23½	28	11	14½	21
(*364½)	390	4½	10½	14½	31	32½	39½
Hanson	110	10½	—	—	2½	—	—
(*118)	119	5	—	—	6½	—	—
LASMO	200	23	26½	33	3½	6	7
(*219)	220	12	17	24	11½	13	15
LucasVarity	220	17½	23	28	6	9½	13½
(*229½)	240	7½	13½	18	16	20	24
Pilkngtn	140	12	17	18½	2½	5	7
(*147½)	160	2½	7½	9	13½	15½	18
Prudential	460	24½	33½	39	11½	22	26½
(*484)	500	9½	15½	21½	35	46	50
Redland	360	17	25½	26½	12½	21½	25
(*360)	390	6	12½	14	32	41	44
R-Royce	230	25	30	33	3½	7½	9½
(*239)	260	12½	18	22	10½	15	18
Tesco	330	23	30	35½	7	13½	17
(*343)	360	7½	15	20½	22	29	32½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
unq	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*3981½)

	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100
Calls						
Dec	136	91	52	25	9½	2½
Jan	161	124	91	61	37	21
Feb	191½	152½	120½	89½	69½	45½
Mar	202	166½	133½	105½	79	99½
Jun	—	220½	—	164	—	116
Puts						
Dec	8	15	26	53	93	142
Jan	26	38	56	79	107	145
Feb	47½	57½	75½	96½	123½	156½
Mar	64	79	96½	118	143	175
Jun	—	119	—	161½	—	213

Series		Calls Dec	Apr	Jul	Puts Dec	Apr	Jul
Abby Nat	700	12	38½	47	9½	38	44½
(*703)	750	0½	20½	26½	47½	71	75½
Amstrad	140	10½	—	—	1	—	—
(*149½)	160	1	—	—	11½	—	—
Barclays	1000	37½	64½	78½	3½	34½	43
(*1028)	1050	7	37½	53	24½	61	69
Natl Pwr	400	47	57½	—	0	6	—
(*446½)	450	4	24	—	7½	21½	—
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo W	900	53	74½	86½	8	27	36
(*938)	950	23	46½	61½	27½	50	60
HSBC	1200	64½	95	117	14	47	62½
(*1249)	1250	34½	66½	90½	34	71	86½
Reuter	700	23½	43	57	13	31	38½
(*705½)	750	7	20½	35	46	70	66½
Royal & Sun	431	17	31½	—	10½	25½	—
(*434½)	469	5½	—	—	36	—	—
Series		**Dec**	**Feb**	**May**	**Dec**	**Feb**	**May**
Blue Cir	330	27	33½	39½	0	2½	9
(*356½)	360	3	14	21	6½	12½	22½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Kingfishr	600	35½	47½	54½	13	26½	32
(*619)	650	12	23	31½	40	54	59½
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Unilever	1350	16½	55½	67	5½	27½	40
(*1358½)	1400	2	31	42	41½	54	73½
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Br Gas	200	19½	25½	29	0	4½	9
(*219)	220	3½	13½	16½	4½	12½	17
Dixons	550	12	33	46½	9½	22½	29
(*556½)	600	0	14½	24½	43½	51½	58
EMI Group	1300	16	57½	89	14	47	60½
(*1309)	1350	3½	37	67½	50½	77	88½
Tarmac	90	2	7	8½	1	4	6
(*90½)	100	0	3	4½	9½	10½	12
Hillsdwn	180	8½	14½	17	0½	4	9
(*189)	200	0	4½	7	12	14½	21
Lonrho	110	9½	13	15½	0	2½	4½
(*119½)	120	2	7	10	2	3	9
Sears	90	4	—	—	0	—	—
(*93)	100	0½	—	—	7½	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	60½	—	—	1	—	—
(*1558)	1600	3	—	—	44	—	—
Tomkins	240	10	18	23½	1	8	10
(*249)	260	0½	8½	14	11½	18½	20½
Lloyds TSB	390	28	37½	43	0	10	14½
(*417½)	420	4½	18½	26½	7½	23½	28½
Scot Pwr	323	14½	22	—	1	9½	—
(*337)	353	0	8	—	16½	27	—

December 11, 1996 Tot: 50648 Call: 14865 Put: 35783 FTSE Call: 5652 Put: 14904

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100	Dec 96	4003.0	4014.0	3956.0	3973.0	24934
Previous open interest: 67082	Mar 97	4021.0	4030.0	3972.0	3990.0	6911
FTSE 250	Dec 96				4386.5	0
Previous open interest: 5018	Mar 97	4459.0	4459.0	4459.0	4436.5	78
Three Month Sterling	Dec 96	93.60	93.61	93.58	93.60	10058
Previous open interest: 473056	Mar 97	93.41	93.45	93.39	93.42	19030
	Jun 97	93.13	93.17	93.11	93.14	5949
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.44	99.44	99.44	99.44	100
	Jun 97	99.30	99.31	99.30	99.31	391
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 96	96.74	96.76	96.74	96.75	10925
Previous open interest: 1133240	Mar 97	96.82	96.85	96.82	96.83	18505
Long Gilt	Dec 96	110-17	110-17	110-00	109-31	4854
Previous open interest: 147966	Mar 97	109-28	109-28	109-04	109-09	62744
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	125.25	125.25	124.91	124.98	3324
	Jun 97	123.76	123.78	123.55	123.58	1138
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 97	100.60	100.69	99.82	99.96	223019
Previous open interest: 223279	Jun 97	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.07	101
Three month ECU	Dec 96	95.80	95.80	95.79	95.80	649
Previous open interest: 31614	Mar 97	95.87	95.88	95.85	95.88	863
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 96	97.76	97.87	97.75	97.86	3366
Previous open interest: 88142	Mar 97	97.86	98.00	97.82	97.99	8326
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 97	128.05	128.14	127.45	127.80	49609
Previous open interest: 82771	Jun 97				127.35	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 5 Week fixed: 5¾

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 5¾ ; 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝
Overnight: open 5¾, close 5 .					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6¼	6⅝
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.50	n/a	5.44	5.49	5.63
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅝-6⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅛
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-1⅞	2⅛-2	2⅛-2	2¼-2⅛	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $369.20-369.50 Close: $368.00-368.50 High: $370.45-370.95
Low: $367.05-367.55 AM: $369.60 PM: $368.25

Krugerrand: $367.75-370.75 (£222.00-224.00)

Platinum: $369.50 (£223.25) Silver: $4.79 (£2.895) Palladium: $120.00 (£72.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8610-2.8695	2.8610-2.8639	½-¼pr	2½-2¼pr
Brussels	52.569-52.750	52.569-52.675	17-12pr	46-36pr
Copenhagen	9.7690-9.7950	9.7690-9.7782	2¼-2pr	7-5¼pr
Dublin	0.9944-0.9982	0.9965-0.9980	6-2pr	16-10pr
Frankfurt	2.5505-2.5580	2.5503-2.5532	½-¼pr	2-1½pr
Lisbon	257.38-258.66	257.50-257.82	¼-¾ds	¼-¾ds
Madrid	214.63-215.17	214.63-214.89	5-15ds	1-19ds
Milan	2523.5-2530.1	2523.5-2527.5	37-43ds	50-73ds
Montreal	2.2499-2.2600	2.2550-2.2572	0.63-0.58pr	1.22-1.13pr
New York	1.6546-1.6676	1.6552-1.6562	0.095-0.075pr	0.346-0.317pr
Oslo	10.658-10.687	10.658-10.669	½-¼pr	¾-¼pr
Paris	8.6350-8.6610	8.6355-8.6424	2¼-2pr	6¼-6pr
Stockholm	11.234-11.263	11.234-11.255	½-¼pr	¾-½pr
Tokyo	186.70-187.07	186.71-186.99	1-¾pr	2¾-2½pr
Vienna	17.946-18.003	17.946-17.968	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Zurich	2.1725-2.1868	2.1725-2.1754	½-¼pr	2½-2¼pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2621-1.2629
Austria	10.85-10.86
Belgium (Com)	31.78-31.82
Canada	1.3620-1.3625
Denmark	5.9097-5.9117
France	5.2185-5.2205
Germany	1.5419-1.5426
Hong Kong	7.7330-7.7340
Ireland	1.6615-1.6625
Italy	1526.15-1526.65
Japan	112.84-112.94
Malaysia	2.5210-2.5215
Netherlands	1.7292-1.7297
Norway	6.4440-6.4460
Portugal	155.63-155.73
Singapore	1.3985-1.3995
Spain	129.84-129.87
Sweden	6.7935-6.8010
Switzerland	1.3140-1.3150

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6555-1.6582
Australia dollar	2.0904-2.0943
Bahrain dinar	0.6180-0.6300
Brazil real*	1.7222-1.7266
China yuan	13.574-13.874
Cyprus pound	0.7690-0.7790
Finland markka	7.5950-7.7110
Greece drachma	400.0-407.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.8028-12.8121
India rupee	58.77-59.73
Indonesia rupiah	3860.0-3928.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4915-0.5015
Malaysia ringgit	4.1726-4.1768
New Zealand dollar	2.3774-2.3812
Pakistan rupee	65.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9675-6.0915
Singapore dollar	2.3149-2.3179
S Africa rand (com)	7.6930-7.7950
U A E dirham	6.0200-6.1440

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,900	Lloyds TSB	12,900
ASDA Gp	10,700	LucasVarity	4,000
Abbey Ntl	3,300	Marks Spr	4,000
Allied Dom	3,700	NatWst Bk	3,500
Argos	322	Nat Grid	2,100
AB Foods	886	Nat Power	3,300
BAA	816	Next	1,700
BAT Inds	15,700	Orange	2,200
BOC	751	P & O	4,800
BP	13,700	Pearson	552
BSkyB	2,600	Pilkington	9,600
BTR	8,900	PowerGen	3,700
BT	15,000	Prudential	3,900
Bk of Scot	2,800	RMC	204
Barclays	4,200	RTZ	3,900
Bass	2,900	Railtrack	5,200
Blue Circle	4,100	Rank Group	2,600
Boots	2,000	Reckitt Col	1,600
BAe	1,700	Redland	2,100
BA	4,600	Reed Intl	1,200
Brit Gas	19,800	Rentokil Inl	5,700
Brit Steel	11,700	Reuters	5,800
Burmah Cstl	1,500	Rolls Royce	5,000
Burton	16,000	Royal & Sun	3,700
Cable Wire	5,800	Royal Bk Sct	1,600
Cadbury	3,200	Safeway	4,400
Carlton Cms	4,000	Sainsbury	2,500
Cm Union	3,700	Schroders	31
Courtaulds	1,400	Scot & New	1,300
Dixons	1,700	Scot Power	2,000
EMI	2,800	Svrn Trent	3,300
Enterpr Oil	2,900	Shell Trans	6,800
GKN	1,200	Siebe	2,500
GRE	3,800	SmKl Bch	2,300
GUS	526	Smith Nph	4,100
Gen Acc	2,000	Smiths Inds	1,000
Gen Elec	8,000	Std Chartd	4,100
Glaxo Well	6,900	TI Gp	637
Granada	3,400	Tate & Lyle	3,900
Grand Met	8,300	Tesco	4,500
Guinness	4,300	Thames W	1,500
HSBC	5,200	Tomkins	1,500
Hanson	9,500	Unilever	1,300
ICI	2,200	Utd Utilities	3,500
Imp Tob	3,400	Utd News	1,300
Kingfisher	1,900	Vodafone	10,100
LASMO	2,600	Whitbread	1,400
Ladbroke	5,400	Wilms Hld	3,800
Land Secs	1,500	Wolseley	845
Legal & Gn	6,900	Zeneca	2,100

WALL STREET

	Dec 11 midday	Dec 10 close
AMP Inc	37½	37½
AMR Corp	90½	93
ASA	37½	37½
AT & T	37½	38½
Abbott Labs	52½	53½
Advanced Micro	25½	26½
Aetna Life	74½	75½
Ahmanson (HF)	32½	33½
Air Prod & Chem	67½	68½
AirTouch Comm	26½	26½
Alberto-Culver B	47½	48½
Albertson's	35½	35½
Alcan Aluminum	34½	35
Alco Standard	50½	51½
Allied Signal	68½	69½
Alum Co of Am	64	64½
Amax Gold Inc	6½	6½
Amerada Hess	56½	58
Amer Brands	48½	49½
Amer El Power	41	40½
Amer Express	54½	54½
Amer Genl Corp	40½	40½
Amer Home Pr	62½	63½
Amer Intl	109½	111½
Amer Stores	40½	41½
Amer Standard	37½	37½
Ameritech	55½	56½
Amoco	76½	77½
Anheuser-Busch	41½	42½
Apple Computer	24	24½
Archer Daniels	21½	21½
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	71	71½
Asarco	26½	26½
Atl Richfield	136½	138½
Auto Data Pro	40½	41½
Avery Dennison	71	71½
Avon Products	56½	57½
Baker Hughes	34½	35½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	44½	45½
BankAmerica	97½	98½
Bank of NY	33½	34½
Bankers Tr NY	86	86½
Barnett Banks	40	40½
Bausch & Lomb	36½	37½
Baxter Intl	41½	42½
Becton Dickinsn	42½	42½
Bell Atlantic	59½	60½
Bell Industries	20½	20½
BellSouth	38½	38½
Black & Decker	30½	31½
Block (H&R)	31½	32½
Boeing	95	95½
Boise Cascade	32½	33
Bristol Myrs Sq	110½	112½
Browning Ferris	26½	27½
Brunswick	24½	24½
Burlington Nthn	87½	87½
CMS Energy Corp	32½	32½
CNA Financial	105½	106½
CPC Intl	79½	79½
CSX	45½	46½
Campbell Soup	81½	81
Can Pacific	26	26½
Carolina Pwr	36½	36½
Caterpillar	77½	79½
Central & SW	25½	26
Champion Intl	42½	42½
Chase Manhat	89½	89½
Chevron Corp	63½	63½
Chrysler	35½	35½
Chubb Corp	53½	54½
Cigna Corp	135½	137½
Citicorp	101½	103½
Clorox	101½	101½
Coastal Corp	47½	48½
Coca Cola	49½	49½
Coca Cola Ent	43½	44½
Colgate-Palmolive	90½	91½
Columbia Gas	63½	63½
ColumbiaHCA	39½	40½
Compaq Comp	82½	83½
Comp Ass Intl	62½	63½
Conagra	49½	49½
Conrail	97	97½
Cons Edison	28½	28½
Cons Nat Gas	54½	56
Cooper Inds	40½	40½
Corestates	51½	51½
Corning Inc	44½	45½
Crown Cork	50½	51
Dana Corp	31½	31½
Dayton Hudson	39½	39½
Deere	42½	42½
Delta Air Lines	75½	76½
Deluxe Corp	30½	30½
Digital Equip	39½	40½
Dillard Dept St	29½	30½
Disney (Walt)	72	73½
Dominion Res	37½	38
Donelley (RR)	31½	31½
Dover Corp	52½	52½
Dow Chemical	81½	82½
Dow Jones	33½	34½
Dresser	30½	31
Duke Power	44	44½
Dun & Bradstreet	22½	23½
Du Pont	93	95½
Eastman Chem	56½	57½
Eastman Kodak	80½	81½
Eaton Corp	68½	69½
Edison Int	20	20
Elect Data Sys	46½	47½
Emerson Elec	96½	98
Engelhard Corp	19	19½
Enron Corp	44½	45½
Entergy	27½	27½
Ethyl Corp	8½	9
Exxon	94½	94½
FMC Corp	72½	73½
FPL Group	44	44½
Federal Express	42½	43½
Fed Nat Mige	38½	39½
First Bk Sys	70½	71½
First Union Rlty	11½	11½
Fleet Finl Grp	52½	53½
Fluor Corp	64½	64½
Ford Motor	32½	32½
GTE Corp	43½	44½
Gannett	74	74½
Gap Inc Del	31½	31½
Gencorp	18½	18½
Gen Dynamics	69½	70½
Gen Electric	96½	98
Gen Mills	63½	63½
Gen Motors	58	58½
Gen Reinsurance	161½	163½
Gen Signal	42½	42½
Genuine Parts	44½	44½
Georgia Pac	73½	74½
Gillette	70½	71½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	31	31½
Goodrich (BF)	40½	41½
Goodyear Tire	49½	50½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31½	31½
Great Wstn Fin	30	31
Halliburton	57½	58½
Harcourt General	51½	52½
Heinz (HJ)	35½	36½
Hercules	46½	47
Hershey Foods	45½	45½
Hewlett Packard	53½	54½
Hilton Hotels	28½	28½
Home Depot	52	52½
Homestake Mng	14½	14½
Honeywell	67½	68½
Household Intl	91½	90½
Houston Inds	21½	21½
Humana	19½	19½
ITT Corp	42½	42½
Illinois Tool	79½	80½
Illinova	26½	26½
INCO	33½	33½
Ingersoll Rand	46	46½
Inland Steel	18½	18½
Intel Corp	131½	129½
IBM	155½	158
Intl Flav & Fr	44½	45½
Intl Paper	40½	41½
James River Va	33½	34
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	51½	52½
Kellogg	65	65½
Kerr-McGee	69½	69½
Kimberly-Clark	95½	96½
Kmart	10½	10½
Knight-Ridder	39½	40
Lilly (Eli)	74½	75½
Limited Inc	18½	18½
Lincoln Nat	50½	51½
Litton	45½	45½
Liz Claiborne	40½	40½
Lockheed Martin	89	89½
Louisiana Pac	21½	22½
MCI Comm	31½	31½
Marriott Intl	54	54½
Marsh & McLnn	109½	110½
Masco Corp	35½	35½
May Dept St	47	47½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	46½	47½
McDonnell D	50½	51½
McGraw Hill	44½	44
Mead Corp	57½	58½
Medtronic	62½	63½
Mellon Bk	71½	73½
Merck Inc	79½	79½
Merrill Lynch	77½	78½
Microsoft	80½	81½
Minnesota Mine	84	84½
Mobil Corp	119½	120½
Monsanto	39½	40½
Morgan (JP)	94½	95½
Motorola Inc	54	55½
Natl Semi	26½	26½
Natl Service Ind	34½	34½
Navistar Int	9½	9½
NY Times A	37½	38
Newmont Mng	45½	45½
Niag Mohawk	9½	10
Nike B	54½	56
NL Industries	10½	11½
Noram Energy	15½	15½
Nordstrom	40½	41½
Norfolk Sthrn	88½	88½
Nthn State Pwr	46½	46½
Norwest Corp	43½	44½
Nynex Corp	45	45½
Occidental Pet	22½	23
Ohio Edison	22½	22½
Oracle	47½	49½
Oryx Energy Co	21	20½
Overseas Ship	17	17½
Owens Corning	41½	41½
PHH Corp	44½	44½
PPG Industries	58½	60
PNC Bank	37½	38½
PP&L Res	23	23½
Paccar Inc	71½	71½
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	29½	30
Pac Gas & Elect	23½	23½
Pac Telesis	35½	35½
Pall Corp	26½	26½
Parker Hannifin	41½	41½
Peco Energy	24½	25
Penney (JC)	50½	51½
Pennzoil	55½	56½
Pepsico	29½	29½
Pfizer	83	83½
Pharm & Upjhn	37½	38½
Phelps Dodge	69½	70½
Philip Morris	115½	116½
Phillips Pet	42½	43½
Pitney Bowes	57½	58½
Polaroid	41½	41½
PriceCostco	23½	23½
Procter & Gmbl	105½	106½
Providian	53½	54½
Pub Serv E & G	27½	28
Quaker Oats	36	36½
Ralston Purina	73½	74½
Raychem Corp	84½	85½
Raytheon	48½	48½
Reebok Intl	43½	44½
Reynolds Metals	57½	59
Rockwell Intl	64	64
Rohm & Haas	79½	80½
Royal Dutch	163½	163½
Rubbermaid	23½	24½
SBC Comms	50½	51
Safeco Corp	40½	40½
St Paul's Cos	59½	59½
Salomon Inc	44½	45
Sara Lee Corp	36½	36½
Schering Plough	67½	68½
Schlumberger	99½	100½
Seagram	39½	40½
Sears Roebuck	47½	47½
Shell Trans	96½	97½
Sherwin Wllms	54½	54½
Skyline Corp	26½	26½
Snap-On-Tools	36½	36½
Southern Co	21½	22½
Sprint Corp	39	39½
Stanley Works	27½	28½
Sun Company	24½	24½
Sun Microsys	30½	61½
Suntrust	48½	48½
Supervalu	28½	29½
Sysco Corp	33½	34
TRW Inc	47½	48½
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	14½	14½
Tandy Corp	42½	42½
Temple Inland	53½	55½
Tenneco	51½	51½
Texaco	98½	99½
Texas Inst	66½	68½
Texas Utilities	40½	40½
Textron	92½	94½
Time Warner	39½	40½
Times-Mirror A	50½	52½
Timken	46	46½
Torchmark	50½	50½
Toys R Us	31½	32½
Transamerica	79½	79½
Travelers	43½	45½
Tribune	81	82½
Tyco Int	53	53½
UST Inc	33½	33½
UAL	61½	62½
US Inds	32	31½
US West Comm	31½	31½
USX Marathon	24½	25½
Unicom	26½	26½
Unilever NV	164½	164½
Union Camp	49½	50½
Union Carbide	41½	44½
Union Pacific	58	58½
Unisys Corp	7½	7½
USAIR Group	24½	25½
USF&G Corp	19½	20½
US Life	31½	31½
United Tech	64½	132½
Unocal Corp	40½	40½
VF Corp	67	67½
WMX Tech	34½	35½
Wal-Mart Stores	24½	24½
Warner-Lambert	72	73
Wells Fargo	270½	274½
Westinghouse El	18½	18½
Weyerhaeuser	47	47½
Whirlpool	47½	48½
Whitman	22½	22½
Winn Dixie	32½	32½
Woolworth	23½	23½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	55½	55½
Xerox	52½	50½
Yellow Corp	14½	14½

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Oasis pays up after a storm

OASIS STORES was feeling £5,000 poorer yesterday, after agreeing to pay compensation to Tateossian, the upmarket jewellery designer, which discovered that Oasis was selling copies of its £70 baubles for £2.99.

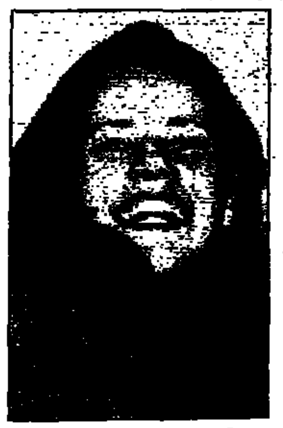
Tateossian ran immediately to Theodore Goddard, the City law firm, who put the squeeze on Oasis, but had to concede that it is hard to make a retailer squirm. "The courts will only give damages up to a decent royalty rate, which is no disincentive to the retailers," said Simon Clark of Theodore Goddard.

Invisible man

SANFORD KAPLAN, one of the five board members at Wickes, the do-it-yourself chain, resigned yesterday as a non-executive director. The American former senior vice-president of Xerox Corporation, will be best remembered for his absence. The invisible man, 80, was appointed to the Wickes board in 1989. Recent recruits, John Napier, 54, and Nigel Whittaker, 48, are the young blood on the board that includes Robert Burrow, 45, and Sanford Sigoloff, 66.

Quiet man

ANGUS FORBES was keeping a low profile yesterday after news broke that he is to marry prima ballerina Darcey Bussell. The 31-year-old Aussie, formerly at James Capel, is in European sales at Merril Lynch and reports to Philip Farrer. Forbes had his fingers crossed that his colleagues were working too hard to look at an afternoon issue of the London *Evening Standard*.



Bussell: to marry Forbes

Arched back

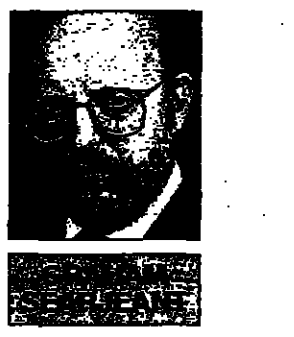
MCDONALD'S is being snubbed by Robin Williams, star of the new Disney film *The Absent-Minded Professor*. Williams has said no to McDonald's, the "Golden Arches" burger giant, which is on the hunt for its next commercial tie-in with a Hollywood film. More stubborn than a supermarket trolley, Williams refuses to budge. He has forbidden the chain to use either his name or image for promotional purposes, including those scenes in which he appears. This is not the first time that Williams has dashed McDonald's hopes: the last time was for a commercial tie-in with the film *Aladdin*.

Bigger scope

SCOPE Communications is to merge with Ketchum, the sixth largest PR company in the world, in a deal that will bring a combined fee income of £5 million. James Maxwell, chief executive of Scope, number 27 in the UK, will report to Jerry Olszewski, managing director of Ketchum in Europe. Last February, Ketchum, whose clients include Federal Express, Duracell and United Biscuits, was bought by Omnicom. Ketchum's 20-strong team in London will move into the Covent Garden headquarters of Scope, whose clients include Allied Domecq, Toyota, McDonald's, BT, Rank Xerox, and Halfords.

MORAG PRESTON

If you know what EMU will mean, you are probably wrong



Judged by the weight of paper, the European currency is at last on its way. From City banks to medium-sized enterprises in Cumbria, proprietors, managers and traders are beginning to be bombarded with bumpf. *What will EMU mean for you? Are you ready for it? Have you started preparing? Will you exploit the opportunities or be left behind? Are you a go-getter or a wimp?*

Ahead of the Dublin summit, the markets are seething with financial studies. The *leitmotiv* is whether economic and monetary union is a good thing, supported by portfolios of *scenarios* that would make a Hollywood agent proud. The more subversive, or wish-fulfilling analysts question whether the EMU project will be stalled, put off, or even — secret joy of joys — cancelled altogether. Software experts are already issuing depressing warnings. If you think you can prime your computers for the euro and the millennium in one simple, last-minute package, forget it.

Many who stuff these studies into their briefcases will have a tiny virus of doubt working at the back of their minds. Remember when this happened before. There was the ERM, which certainly had a big impact but one quite unlike the vision most thoughtful planners laid before British business. Any company that was truly ready for the ERM probably went bust in the recession. Then there was 1992, the wrongly dated start of the single European market, which merely accelerated an existing trend and wrecked the trade figures. Finally there was Taurus, the ambitious electronic system that was to revolutionise the stock market, get rid of paper and do anything anyone needed. Accountants, brokers and consultants vied to make it exciting or, failing that, threatening.

Anyone even peripherally affected was warned of the perils of being unprepared, as most inevitably were. After all that effort and angst, the plug was pulled at the last moment. Taurus did not work. Years later, the humbler Crest is to plug the gap. No one claims it is exciting; there are drawbacks and it does not work too well. But few pretend it should be the talk of the town.

There is, however, a difference between EMU and Taurus. The European currency is a Franco-German project. Given the intense debate over Britain's role in the European Union, there is a strange gap in most of these EMU briefings and analyses. They pay hardly any attention to whether sterling will be a founder member of the European currency, or even whether it will join in the next round of entrants. The arguments are well-worn and neither main party has a meaningful intention, so there is not a lot that can usefully be said.

Instead, there is a vague assumption that sterling will stay out. Unflattering as it may seem, Britain's self-preoccupation adds credibility to the EMU project. The Paris/-Bonn/Brussels steamroller is likely to ensure it goes ahead, even if not quite on schedule and regardless of whether it will work properly.

By contrast, many columns are devoted to Italy. That is understandable too. Italy's membership pivots on the stability pact due to be agreed at Dublin as well as the interpetation of entry rules, and is itself pivotal to the likely character of the euro. This ambiguity is at the heart of the project. Aside from federalist Benelux tendencies, EMU marries France's desire to soften the mark with Germany's desire to widen as far as possible the economic area that cannot devalue against its exports. As the head of the Bank of France put it, the euro should be at least as strong as the franc.

The coming together of so many different motives explains why EMU has momentum. The tension between them explains why the impact of the euro is so hard to predict in advance. No wonder financial markets hang on niceties such as the exact penalties for deviating from the stability pact limits on state borrowing.

As these tensions work through, the character of the euro is likely to change over time. It will certainly be affected by the European Commission's longer term agenda. The prime purpose of the Intergovernmental Conference, which will predate the crucial EMU decisions, is to "reform" voting in the Council of Ministers. The aims are to take many more decisions by majority vote, instead of unanimously and, in effect, to lower the qualifying majority needed.

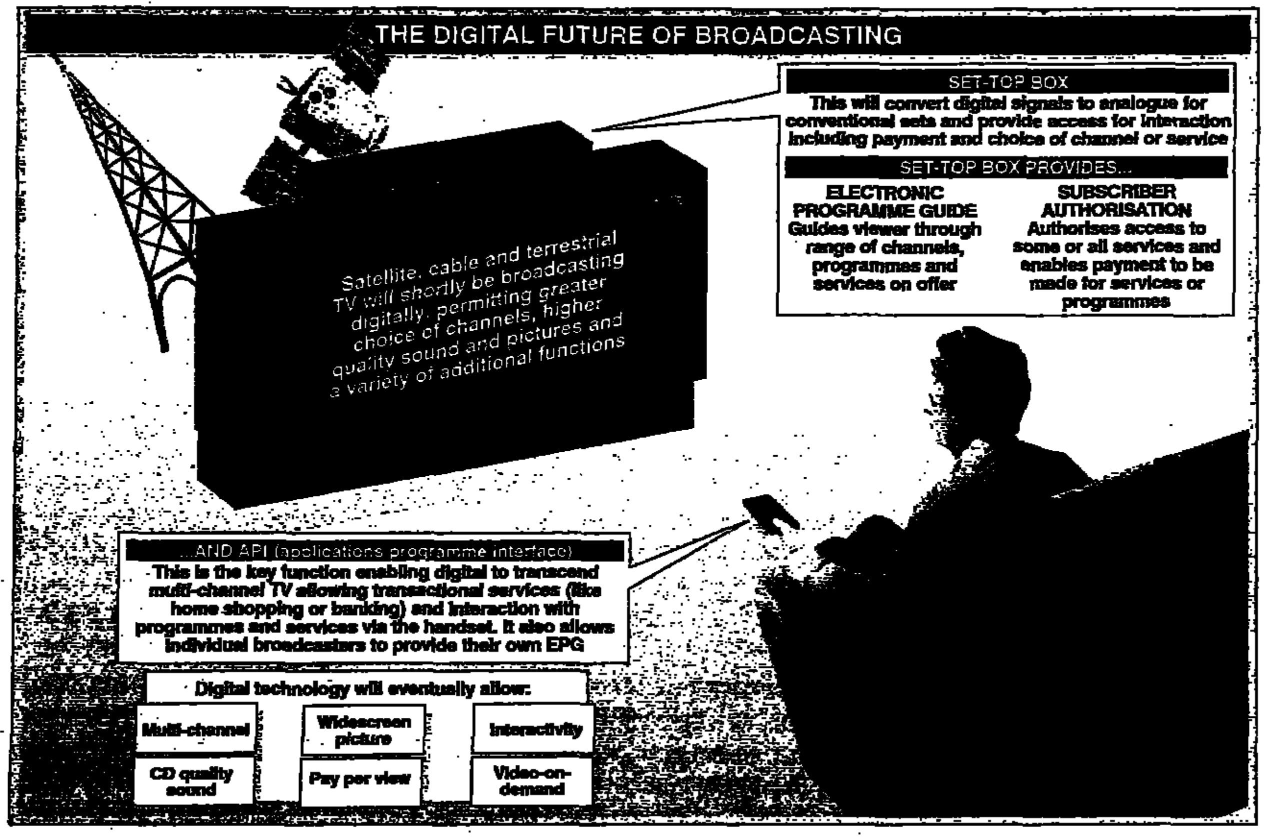
Ostensibly, this is needed to allow entry of ex-Communist central Europe. It is certainly touted as a *sine qua non*, holding Czechs and Poles to ransom for big countries' vetoes. An analysis by the United Nations Economic Commmission for Europe concludes that entry is in any case unlikely before 2005, if then. Even if Germany tried to corral its Eastern markets earlier, during its 1999 presidency, entry before 2002 can probably be ruled out.

Before that, the EU must review its budgetary arrangements. If the European currency extends beyond the richest EU members, it is likely to require more subsidies for the less competitive outposts. Entry into the EU of poorer countries with big farm sectors will add more costs and balloon the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy. The sooner they enter, the bigger the cost. Germany might be willing to pay for its markets. But the budget outome will depend heavily on the voting structure at the time. For many member states, such as debt-ridden Italy and Belgium, the best compromise would be for the union to borrow.

The euro zone might well start with tight fiscal policies and low interest rates, giving some reward to those who have suffered to join, and relying hopefully on extra competition within the currency union to keep inflation down. Later, if union borrowing compensated for restricted national budget deficits, the roles might be reversed. Anyone can play the *scenario* game. The only safe bet is that if financial markets agree on the timing and impact of EMU, they will be proved wrong.

Pause button pressed on digital TV

Alexandra Frean and **Eric Reguly** look at the reasons for the delay



THE DIGITAL FUTURE OF BROADCASTING
SET-TOP BOX
This will convert digital signals to analogue for conventional sets and provide access for interaction including payment and choice of channel or service
SET-TOP BOX PROVIDES...
ELECTRONIC PROGRAMME GUIDE
Guides viewer through range of channels, programmes and services on offer
SUBSCRIBER AUTHORISATION
Authorises access to some or all services and enables payment to be made for services or programmes
Satellite, cable and terrestrial TV will shortly be broadcasting digitally, permitting greater choice of channels, higher quality sound and pictures and a variety of additional functions
...AND API (applications programme interface)
This is the key function enabling digital to transcend multi-channel TV allowing transactional services (like home shopping or banking) and interaction with programmes and services via the handset. It also allows individual broadcasters to provide their own EPG
Digital technology will eventually allow:
Multi-channel
Widescreen picture
Interactivity
CD quality sound
Pay per view
Video-on-demand

The advent of digital television, a new medium that will fundamentally change the country's viewing habits by bombarding viewers with hundreds of new channels and services, has been bogged down by a series of regulatory, legislative and commercial hurdles. Unless they are cleared in the coming months, digital TV is unlikely to make its much-vaunted debut until 1998.

The BBC, the cable companies and BSkyB had hoped to make digital TV a part of everyday life by the spring of 1997. But getting the systems in place by the summer of 1998, when France is to host the World Cup, the biggest viewing event of the decade, has now emerged as the unofficial deadline.

Britain is on the brink of a communications revolution. When digital TV arrives, the standard service will instantly seem a quaint relic of the past. Choice, and lots of it, will be its key feature. Sports and film fanatics will be in couch potato heaven.

Since digital transmissions take up less bandwidth on the broadcasting spectrum, more channels can be picked up by the receiver. BSkyB, for example, would replace several dozen existing analogue channels with some 200 digital channels. With so much capacity available, viewers will be bombarded with specialised channels and a plethora of movie, film and sports services.

There would be enough space for services such as near-video-on-demand and pay-per-view. With the former, a satellite would transmit the same film at regular intervals, say 20 minutes apart, giving viewers the luxury of tuning in whenever it suited them. With the latter, broadcasters would buy the rights to individual events and sell them on a one-off basis to subscribers.

A championship boxing fight might cost £10; alternatively, football fanatics would be able to buy an "electronic season ticket" to Premiership matches. Digital technology will allow them to choose which games they want to see, replay highlights and even pick camera angles. All this will be shown on wide-screen TVs with cinema-like quality.

While digital broadcasting, usually in direct-to-home satellite form, exists in several countries, only the British Government has made its introduction a national priority. Eventually, perhaps in 20 years, the existing analogue TV signals will be turned off altogether, making Britain a top-to-bottom digital market.

The BBC has already started regular digital broadcasts, albeit on radio only, and the rest of the industry is exploring ways to make it commercially feasible. The delay in launching digital TV is not a matter of speculation.

None of the companies that make set-top boxes, the electronic devices that receive and unscramble digital broadcast signals, has started production for the British market. Pace Micro Technology, one of the largest manufacturers, had expected to learn three months ago whether it would get the go-ahead to make the first batch of several hundred thousand boxes. Steve Jones, the finance director, said: "We won't get an order until we get a firm date for the digital launch. Then it will take nine months to get the boxes out."

The BBC, the cable companies, BSkyB (the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), and the consumer electronics makers and retailers are all convinced that digital broadcasting is the next frontier in the entertainment industry. But none of them has actually made a firm commitment to digital and, after years of hype, the rush seems to be off.

Among ITV companies, only Carlton Communications has come out strongly in favour of digital terrestrial TV. While the ITV Association, which represents all the ITV companies, accepts that digital broadcasting is an inevitability, it is not wholly convinced that digital TV in terrestrial form will be a winner because it will not have the capacity to offer the hundreds of channels that BSkyB and the cable companies would like to launch.

Some argue that simply duplicating existing analogue transmission in digital form may not be enough to justify the investment.

For the rest of the industry, determining the regulatory and commercial framework — who is to share the spoils and under what conditions — appears to be the main stumbling block. Until this is settled, not a penny will be spent on digital. The set-top boxes alone could cost as much as £500 apiece unless they are subsidised by the broadcasters. BSkyB has estimated that it faces a £1 billion bill to convert its analogue customers to digital.

The most crucial debate centres on determining the conditions under which the various broadcasters will have access to the set-top boxes and their conditional access systems — the technology used by broadcasters to ensure that only paid-up subscribers have acces to its channels. The BBC, fearing that BSkyB, which is already dominant in the subscription television business, will dominate the digital-TV market and dictate set-top box access on its terms, yesterday called for legislation guaranteeing fair and equal access to the boxes.

The set-top box is of critical importance to broadcasters because it performs three key functions. As well as unscrambling the digital signals and providing individual subscribers with access to digital pictures and sound, the boxes also contain an electronic programme guide (EPG) to help viewers to find the programmes that they want to watch from the hundreds on offer. As such it has a powerful impact on viewer perception and choice.

The BBC is particularly concerned that the branding on the front or "home" page of the EPG may unduly influence viewers. If BSkyB had effective control over the set-top box, the corporation fears, it could design the EPG to promote its own channels over those of its rivals.

Set-top boxes also contain an applications programmes interface (API), the key function that enables digital television to offer other services such as home shopping or Internet services. Again, the corporation is worried that the set-top box provider could unfairly promote its own services over those of rival operators.

The third element of the set-top box is the subscriber management systems. Both the BBC and ITV are also worried that if one company were to have ultimate control over the subscriber authorisation systems, it could gain detailed knowledge of their competitors' customer base and get advance knowledge of their rivals' plans for key pay-per-view sporting events.

The BBC believes that the only way to prevent this kind of potential dominance by BSkyB is for the company to be subjected to a mandatory licensing system under which it is forced to share its set-top box technology with competitors. It argues that BSkyB stands to benefit from such a system as it would receive a steady flow of cash from a guaranteed licensing fee paid by all digital television operators using its system.

Few in the industry believe that the BBC's demand for mandatory licensing will find favour with the the Department of Trade and Industry, which published its draft guidelines on digital television last week. While coming out in support of access on "fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms", the DTI appears more or less to have passed the buck to Don Cruickshank, the Director-General of Telecommunications. It is now up to him to determine how to regulate the access systems to ensure there are no abuses of dominant power. He is expected to publish his guidelines before Christmas.

While the terrestrial broadcasters will now be relying more on Oftel than the DTI to get the kind of regulation they want, BSkyB's fear is that Oftel will treat it as a celestial British Telecom. BT has complained for years that the regulator has had more influence on its position in the market than its own directors.

Simply put, BSkyB claims that it is not prepared to kick-start the digital TV industry unless it knows it can make a satisfactory return on its investment. BSkyB said that a decision cannot be made until the regulatory proposals are known, and if they are overly strict, it could decide to delay the digital launch.

Money men at Lloyd's face challenge as assets shrink

Lloyd's of London is healthy at last — but will its central administration survive the rigours of convalescence? The Corporation of Lloyd's, which handles central functions, has seen its assets depleted from £500 million to £70 million, due to the costs of the Reconstruction & Renewal (R&R) programme.

The figure, disclosed at the Lloyd's annual meeting, attracted little attention, but raises important questions. How will the money men manage to run the corporation with a fraction of the assets available only a year ago and what are their constraints?

Under the Lloyd's solvency tests, the corporation must have enough cash to meet creditor commitments normally assessed on a three-month rolling basis. It also needs to show that it has adequate resources to cover all liabilities, including long-term ones. These tests are tough and uncompromising.

The loss of income from the sale of Lloyd's of London Press and the increased costs of staying in the Lloyd's building — in terms of rent and loss of income from other tenants — have dictated that there may be a shortfall in cash required to last the corporation to the end of 1997. This is why members' subscriptions were increased from 0.5 to 0.7 per cent in order to generate more than £23 million in a full year.

The rise in subscription has been set to run for a year only, to give financial managers time to drive down costs. Ron Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive, has insisted that corporation managers co-ordinate the most intensive cost review in the history of Lloyd's. The result is already being felt in recent announcements of a radical overhaul to the corporation structure.

The Lloyd's building

Although Marshall Aid is not yet needed, continual monitoring and the use of high-level financial expertise to husband resources is vital. Long gone are the days of the amateur. The financial team has been strengthened with business-hardened financial professionals who monitor compliance over solvency and the syndicated loan of £300 million. The syndicate is led by Citibank, NatWest and The Royal Bank of Canada. Although the monies were raised for bridging payments to Equitas, it was then considered necessary to lob the money into the R&R settlement pot to increase the available sum from £2.9 billion to £3.2 billion. The banks have insisted on the most stringent controls involving a series of restrictive covenants which Lloyd's has to meet in discharging repayment conditions for the loan. Gone, perhaps for ever, are the good old days when banks lent to Lloyd's without strings. Today, although banks remain keen on exposure to the market, the R&R process has convinced them that they have a significant exposure to risk.

The corporation is obliged to honour a covenant requiring Lloyd's to be able to show cont-

to cover capital and interest payments can be sustained by the levy on premium income, with a comfort margin to spare. This condition may put Lloyd's in a Catch 22 situation.

If market turnover falls substantially — as it may if rates are low in 1997 — a possible breach of the banking covenant cannot be ruled out. If, however, the market writes volume at the level necessary to satisfy the covenant, members could find themselves taking on business with lousy margins.

One option is to seek to reschedule the loan for a longer period. This has short-term attractions, but the the shadow of R&R would last even longer. Similarly, if market conditions were tough, it might be possible to have a short-term extension from the bankers, and a "catch-up" period should market conditions improve from 1998 onwards.

The main priority for names is to encourage the money managers to win the costs battle — or the deficit will hit their pockets. The threat of insolvency, like a sentence of imminent hanging, concentrates the mind wonderfully. If lessons have been learnt, the market will prosper.

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European operations continue to thwart NFC

By Keith Rodgers

NFC, the restructured transport and logistics group, yesterday reported a 39 per cent climb in its underlying annual profits but is still struggling to turn round its loss-making European operations.

The figures were in line with expectations after a strong first half, but the company's share price slipped as several analysts downgraded their forecasts for the current year. The markdown reflected concerns about the impact of exchange rates on profits and the cost of the French lorry drivers' dispute.

For the full year to September 30, NFC reported a 12 per cent increase in turnover to £2.46 billion, fuelled by the first results from its Tradeteam drinks venture with Bass and the acquisition of Cedes Logistica in Spain.

Pre-tax profits climbed to £105.7 million before a £500,000 exceptional item relating to a loss on property sales. In the previous year NFC made pre-tax profits of £76.2 million before a £35 million restructuring charge and a £2.6 million property loss.

The results reflected the benefits of massive reorganisation over the last two years after a management shake-up which saw the appointment of Gerry Murphy as chief executive in June 1995.

However, in continental Europe NFC suffered further operating losses of £8.5 million, although this was a 16 per cent improvement. While Spain and Portugal performed well, losses in Germany were unchanged and poor market conditions led to a "disappointing" performance in France.

Operating profit in the UK and Ireland rose 28 per cent to £78.3 million, with strong profit improvements in four logistics businesses: automotive, tankfreight, vehicle management services and Lynx, the express parcels business.

However, results from the media services, truck rental and pallet network arms were less satisfactory, and the company said major contracts with grocery retailers, which account for 14 per cent of UK sales, remain under pressure. Profits were also strong in the moving services arm, which includes Pickfords Removals.

It refused to comment on reports that it is discussing the sale of Lynx, which it has confirmed is not a core business. Elsewhere, North American profits climbed 73 per cent to £25.5 million, while other international operations contributed £6 million.

Earnings per share before exceptional items climbed 35 per cent to 9.3p. There will be a final dividend of 4.6p per share on February 24, leaving the total unchanged at 7.1p.

Analysts are forecasting pretax profits of around £122 million for the current year.

Tempus, page 28

Cookson sells US operation

COOKSON GROUP, the industrial materials conglomerate, has announced the £11.5 million sale of its loss-making US pigments division to the Hoechst group (Martin Baker writes).

The disposal will force Cookson to make a £30 million charge to its profits to cover a write-back of goodwill.

Hoechst Celanese Corporation is paying cash for Cookson Pigments, a New Jersey pigment manufacturer. A further £3 million in respect of the pigment company's finished goods inventory will be paid within the next six months.

Cookson Pigments made an operating loss of £800,000 in the first half of 1996. Net assets were recorded at £45 million.

The personal shareholding of Philip Davies in Linden is estimated at £1.14 million

Linden valued at £22.8m

LINDEN, a builder of houses on disused sites, will be valued at £22.8 million when it joins the stock market next Thursday (Fraser Nelson writes).

Linden, formed five years ago by Philip Davies, chief executive, was drawn to the market by the recovery in the housing market. It forecasts that its operating profits will exceed £3.3 million in 1996, against £2.57 million achieved last time. It has raised £4.6 million through an institutional placing of 4.25 million shares at 150p each.

Mr Davies, who is on course to have his shareholding valued at £1.14 million, said the company stood to gain from the closure of schools and hospitals, whose grounds local authorities were keen to redevelop for competitive prices.

The company runs 12 developments in the South East of England and eight in the North West. It will use the money raised to expand into North London.

Charities back minimum wage

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

CHARITIES pay their staff nearly 18 per cent less than the national average, but most believe they should be covered by Labour's planned minimum wage, a new report shows today.

In a survey of 155 charity organisations, which together employ more than 28,000 staff across Britain in a sector widely seen as low-paying, the Reward pay research group says the majority do not believe a national minimum will reduce unemployment.

The survey shows that even at a level of between £4 and £4.50 an hour 67 per cent of charities do not believe a minimum wage will hit jobs.

The figures are even greater at lower wage levels — 80 per cent at between £3.50 and £4 an hour, 91 per cent at between £3 and £3.50, and 93 per cent sceptical about any jobs impact from a minimum wage set at between £2.50 and £3.

Overall, charities are broadly divided about a national minimum, with 34 per cent seeing it as a good idea and 28 per cent against, with a further 34 per cent maintaining that it depends on a number of factors — principally the level at which it is set.

Chris Trinder, chief economist at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said the "clear cut message is that charities will and should have to cope with the consequences of the national minimum wage".

The study denies recent suggestions that a number of charity chiefs are becoming the new "fat cats", showing that they are 18 per cent less well off than their counterparts in industry.

Caradon in £200m sell-off to Vector

By Oliver August

CARADON, the building products manufacturer, has completed its wide-ranging disposal programme with the sale of its remaining European engineering and distribution businesses to Vector Industries for £200 million.

Caradon said: "This disposal, together with the sale of our automotive plastics businesses, completes our programme of divesting our non-core businesses in Europe."

The businesses sold are engaged in distribution, aero-engine servicing, plastic components, automotive supplies and ventilation systems. Peter Jansen, chief executive, said: "This brings added focus and opportunities to our building products activities and takes us a significant way forward in the implementation of our strategic objectives."

Yesterday's move is Vector's third largest acquisition and has been carried out with a view to floating its shares in three to five years. The new owners do not expect to shed any of the 3,000 employees.

Guy Davison, a Vector non-executive director, said: "We are hoping to grow the companies with capital investments. This will be our core activity, while it was not for Caradon. We also want to introduce new incentive and give the management team an equity stake."

Vector is issuing a £6 million seven-year subordinated loan note to Caradon, which pays interest at libor. The note has certain priority rights in respect of disposal proceeds generated by Vector that are expected to lead to its early redemption.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hoechst bids $3.5bn for outstanding stake

HOECHST, the Germany chemicals company, is to acquire the outstanding 43.47 per cent interest it does not own in Roussel Uclaf, the French pharmaceuticals company, for $3.5 billion. The transaction will be one of the biggest announced this year on the Paris bourse. The bid offers minority shareholders a 12 per cent premium on the average price of the ordinary shares over the previous month. Hoechst said the move would boost its strength in Germany, France and America.

Analysts had been expecting Hoechst to bid for full control of Roussel Uclaf as part of a move to seek a separate stock market listing for Hoechst Marion Roussel, its drug division. Erap, the French state holding company and the second largest shareholder in Roussel after Hoechst with 4.28 per cent, has already indicated it will accept the offer. On Tuesday Hoechst announced it would merge its speciality chemicals business with Clariant, the Swiss group.

Delays hit Chemring

CHEMRING has suffered a sales setback at Chaff Countermeasures, its defence unit, due to a delay in orders caused by customer budget constraints. Philip Billington, the chairman, said this would hit the group's results for the six months to March 1997. Chemring shares tumbled 45p to 290p. Pre-tax profit before exceptionals rose 3.4 per cent to £8.9 million in the year to September 30. Turnover was up 13 per cent at £80.4 million. The dividend rises to 11.45p (10.90p).

Avon bounces higher

AVON RUBBER, the tyremaker, increased full year pre-tax profits by 33 per cent in the year to September 28, helped by healthy demand for its automotive products in Europe and North America, while tyre sales were subdued. Business is expected to continue at current levels in the six months from September 28. Full-year pre-tax profits rose from £16.2 million to £21.5 million. The final dividend is 13.75p, making a 19.5p total (17.7p).

SEC soars to £2.6m

SEC GROUP, the company that makes a market in life insurance endowment policies, reported profits of £2.6 million (£1.2 million). Turnover in endowment policies nearly doubled to £52.7 million, while profits on this main business climbed 75 per cent to £2.1 million. The IFA Network companies, the financial advisory business acquired this year, contributed £500,000 profit. SEC increased its final to 2.75p, due on January 31, making a 4.75p total (3.75p).

Compel acquisition

COMPEL, the integrated computer systems supplier, is acquiring Hamilton Rentals Group, a short-term computer rental company and a reseller of Hewlett Packard and Digital systems, for up to £14.5 million. Hamilton earned operating profits of £2.1 million in 1995 on turnover of £17.6 million. Compel will fund the acquisition from the proceeds of a £15.19 million rights issue. It is offering 11 new shares for every 18 held at 160p each. Existing shares rose 1p to 177½p yesterday.

Thorntons quits France

THORNTONS, the chocolate manufacturer and retailer, is to sell its loss-making French business for a nominal sum to Jeff de Bruges, a retail confectioner. Thorntons launched a £30 million expansion last month, and took a £22 million exceptional charge in the year to June 29 for restructuring, including the sale of its Belgian subsidiary, withdrawal from France and the closure of some manufacturing plant. It expects the loss on the French disposal to be lower than the £5.3 million provision.

ACCOUNTANCY

We boldly go into next generation

By Roger Davis

For accountants, a "poorer and shabbier future beckons" because of technology substitution. So said Pennington (*The Times*, November 12) about the English institute's strategy proposals for the year 2005.

Nonsense. Accountants have made smart use of technology since punched-card data processing in the 1950s. Technology frees accountants from drudgery and repetition. In the core subjects of accounting, control and audit we are entering a fourth generation, which promises an exciting future.

In the 19th century, investors lent money to joint stock companies. A timeless principle was established of directors' accountability to shareholders for what had been done with their money, which will carry to the 21st century. This is why we have to tidy up goodwill accounting: you cannot have payments vanishing as though they were not real money. And we have overcomplicated life: preliminary statements, simplified accounts and full Companies Act accounts sounds like one too many.

Everything else moved on. The first generation was about receipts and payments with no measure of worth. In the second generation we invented accruals and profit on money invested. The third stemmed from market valuation based on historical price-earnings ratios. Earnings per share drive accounting practice. But that is still about the past.

Roger Davis is convinced that an exciting future beckons the accountancy profession

Who actually reads accounts? Value judgments on a company today rely on Stock Exchange announcements and presentations to analysts. Stewardship accounting cannot value a company. Are we accountants in this business just to help to keep the score of a game already over? The only value measure is confidence in future cashflow from a company's markets and management's ability to exploit them. So the fourth generation is about developing shareholder value analysis and squaring information to the market with investment appraisal criteria. If accountants don't do so, someone else will.

In control too, there is the timeless bit and the changing bit. The former is about safeguarding assets: directors must not be reckless with investors' money or put their hands in the till. The latter is entering a fourth generation.

In the beginning each transaction was checked and countersigned up a hierarchy. Then came mechanical data processing, where transactions could be authorised in groups, and a systems approach. Systems became reliable and we entered the third phase: analysing risk and trying to spot where systems might fail.

Now, as we move into the fourth era, risk management in unforgiving global markets is at the strategic heart of a company's survival. This requires the right kind of forward-looking information to be made available to the board so killer mistakes are avoided. As with accounts, looking forward, not back, is becoming crucial.

We see a similar pattern in auditing. Statutory audits will always be needed given human frailty in a competitive society. But, from three generations of ticking the books, systems audit and risk-based auditing, the fourth will require association with value judgments and the whole corporate reporting process. Compliance reports on the past accounts and boilerplate reports on internal control will ensure survival of auditing but not a seat at the top table. As with a prospectus, the auditor must decide whether or not to put his name to the whole show. The fourth generation of risk management will mean incremental assurance services.

This profession has risen to the challenge of the first three generations and there is no reason why it cannot rise to the fourth. The profession is still immensely attractive to bright graduates, and will remain so. The opportunities of understanding business and its disciplines and ethics remain unrivalled. With the right steer, we will be far from poor and shabby. We will be prosperous and smart.

Roger Davis is Head of Accounting and Audit at Coopers & Lybrand.

Veering off from the straight and narrow

Robert
Bruce

DELOITTE & TOUCHE today publishes its second survey of corporate governance disclosure. Based on the accounts of the FT-SE 100 companies, it shows that companies are, by and large, fulfilling their growing responsibilities under the various regulations and guidance papers on corporate governance.

So far, so good. The problems come, as they always do in this field, from the perceptions. The survey is entitled *Avoiding Corporate Governance Overload*. In other words, the ideas behind the survey show a clear bias. Rules that aim to ensure that companies stick to the straight and narrow of corporate governance are seen to be meddlesome.

Not surprisingly, some of Deloitte & Touche's recommendations follow this line. They say that the Hampel committee should not bother with any further rules or best-practice provisions on directors' remuneration. And, in a catch-all, the firm recommends that "society should avoid overdosing UK plc with more corporate governance codes".

All this stems from an attitude which some may find surprising from an independent firm of auditors. This is the opening section of the foreward written by Martin Scicluna, the Deloitte & Touche chairman: "Five years ago the process began of reacting to the events which unfolded following the demise of Robert Maxwell. Since then there have been no convictions in the courts.

"The pension industry is about to face a new regulatory regime which has all the hallmarks of a statutory response, including a plethora of codes and regulations, which I understand could run to twice the length of the Bible. Meanwhile, in the same period, the UK corporate sector has already gained three years' experience of Cadbury and 18 months' experience of Greenbury."

On a seasonal note, this attitude is satirised by Stella Fearnley, an English ICA council member, in a Christmas carol she has produced. In one verse, Sir Ronnie Hampel supposedly sings, to the tune of *Deck the Halls*: "Why did I take this daft job on/ I now have a nasty problem/ Regulation stifles growth/ But these idiots want both."

The call from the clients of Deloitte & Touche, and many other companies, is one of ridding them of the spotlight on corporate governance. "Why change something which is the envy of other countries?" argues Scicluna. To which critics might respond that if something is the envy of the world, should the emphasis be on improving it rather than mothballing it?

Last week's conference in Brussels on the role of the auditor in the European Union suggests that improvement is the goal. Take the old arguments on internal control, for example. Deloitte & Touche argues that directors should not have to say that a company's system of internal control is "effective", but instead that the system provides "reasonable assurance". This is overwhelmingly what the companies surveyed would prefer.

Ian Percy, the auditing practices board's vice-chairman, addressed this question in Brussels. But he turned around the use of the word reasonable. "In my view," he said, "the reasonable user's expectation of directors is that they will have a built-in system of internal control which is appropriate for their purpose in order to minimise the risk of fraud or the risk of inadequate management information, and that they will monitor its capability."

The problem for company directors of the word "effective" is that it puts their views uncomfortably and unequivocally on the line. Reasonableness is, to use the current Euro-jargon, a fudge.

Mr Percy welcomed the "carefully crafted" words in the European Commission green paper "that directors take responsibility for setting up and maintaining systems, and that auditors should be expected to say whether they appear to be well-designed to serve their purpose".

That neatly sums it up. It is a question of taking responsibility. Directors are happy to take responsibility for a rise in profits, but reluctant to take responsibility for fraud slipping past their systems.

The same goes for boards of directors. The Deloitte survey says "two-tier boards should not be imposed on UK plc". Yet the result of Cadbury has been exactly that, and it has strengthened the reputation and performance of companies. So much so that in Europe the new version of two-tier boards is seen as the way forward. The UK company director tried to fight off the idea of the wasteful and ineffective European board structures by negative tactics. In fact, their battle has been won by the vigorous imposition of corporate governance reform. Companies should ditch the dogma of "overload" and seek efficiency and profitability through the agency of change.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A few technical difficulties

THE long search for a new technical director of the English ICA shows no sign of ending. There were worried faces last week as secretariat members made yet another visit to headhunters after more failures to get someone to sign on the dotted line.

Moving the goalposts may not have helped. The institute originally wanted someone to run the technical directorate and boost its abilities at as the source and leader of technical excellence. Now they also want the new director to take an active role in going round the regions telling members whatever is perceived as the good news.

Aspirant technical directors are, it seems, wary of barrages of rotten fruit.

Golden era

THERE were some honest ken down at Pannell Kerr Forster last week. The firm's managing partner, John Wosner, was reporting record leaps in profitability and emphasising that making these public would scotch rumours that mid-tier firms are doomed.

But he is a quiet man and not given to the razzmatazz of announcing results. Asked whether he liked this brave new world of accountancy firms announcing profit hikes, was "to be a professional man in the 1920s". He sighed and then pulled himself together to admit that "you have to live with the world as it is".

The write stuff

THE Scottish ICA's magazine, *CA Magazine*, is looking for a new editor. Neil Fitzgerald has concluded his five-year stint with not only the centenary issue of the magazine, but also his resignation. He aims to spread his Scottish business-writing portfolio wider as a freelance. In his time, the magazine was transformed. It increased circulation and profits, and won awards as the best Scottish business magazine.

This is not so say that all members agreed with him. To people for whom the words "dearie me" followed by a refreshing cup of tea was the acme of professional behaviour, Fitzgerald's energy and business zeal was often thought, well, a bit challenging for Edinburgh.

Robert Bruce

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Equities stem early fall

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1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100	+	6.97	6.33
107	105	Treas 13¼% 1997	105	-	13.15	6.01
102	100	Exch 10½% 1997	100	-	10.42	6.18
102	101	Treas 8¾% 1997	101	+	8.61	6.38
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	107	-	14.00	6.46
106	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	103	-	9.44	6.54
109	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	-	7.19	6.60
116	109	Treas 14% 1998-01	109	-	12.74	6.71
122	114	Treas 15½% 1998	114	-	13.54	6.70
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	109	-	10.99	6.87
108	97	Treas 9½% 1999	105	-	9.05	6.90
116	110	Exch 12¼% 1999	111	-	11.02	6.82
112	107	Treas 10½% 1999	107	-	9.73	6.91
99	95	Treas 6% 1999	97	-	6.13	6.88
112	107	Conv 10¼% 1999	108	-	9.45	7.01
108	103	Conv 9% 2000	105	-	8.53	7.06
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	102	-	7.77	7.13
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	118	-	11.01	7.17
114	109	Treas 10% 2001	109	-	9.11	7.24
101	96	Treas 7% 2001	98	-	7.08	7.27
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
114	107	Treas 9¾% 2002	110	-	8.81	7.41
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	103	-	7.77	7.40
117	110	Treas 10% 2003	113	-	8.83	7.46
121	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115	-	9.88	7.26
85	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83	-	4.19	6.25
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	111	-	8.51	7.52
97	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	-	7.05	7.46
108	101	Treas 8½% 2005	108	-	8.02	7.56
114	108	Conv 9½% 2005	112	-	8.49	7.57
131	128	Treas 12½% 2003-05	126	-	9.88	7.49
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	99	-	7.55	7.59
103	95	Treas 7¾% 2006	100	-	7.68	7.61
104	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	101	-	7.87	7.51
125	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120	-	9.74	7.47
108	101	Treas 8½% 2007	106	-	8.00	7.63
112	103	Treas 9% 2008	110	-	8.17	7.66
104	96	Treas 8% 2009	102	-	7.80	7.70
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	-	7.16	7.75
113	104	Conv 9% 2011	110	-1	8.13	7.74
114	104	Treas 9% 2012	111	-1	8.09	7.74
84	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	82	...	6.68	7.49
105	96	Treas 8% 2013	102	-1	7.83	7.75
103	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100	-	7.72	7.75
108	95	Treas 8% 2015	102	-1	7.80	7.73
113	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	-1	7.97	7.79
144	130	Exch 12% 2013-17	142		8.45	
106	95	Tr 8% 2021	102	-1	7.77	7.73
UNDATED						
46	41	War Ln 3½%	44	-	7.85	
32	29	Treas 2½%	31	...	7.98	
51	46	Consols 4%	50	+	7.88	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					**10%**	**5%**
114	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113		0.50	2.37
185	176	Treas IL 2½% 2001	184	-	2.75	3.30
182	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	180	-	2.95	3.37
119	112	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	117	-	3.02	3.39
192	179	Treas IL 2% 2006	190	-	3.17	3.45
173	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171	-	3.27	3.51
179	167	Treas IL 2½% 2011	175	-	3.33	3.54
148	136	Treas IL 2½% 2013	145	-	3.39	3.57
157	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	154	-	3.44	3.61
151	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	148	-	3.50	3.64
126	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123	-	3.50	3.63
124	113	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121	-	3.50	3.63

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Groland Euro	264.60	280.00	- 2.60	0.58
Groland Expl Bal	133.20	138.90		2.55
Groland Corp Bd	76.19	78.71	+ 0.09	7.63
Groland Japan	151.80	160.60†	- 0.80	..

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	677.90	721.20	- 7.50	2.50
General Inc	565.80	602.00	- 6.30	2.50
UK Growth Acc	465.50	495.30	- 5.10	2.65
UK Growth Inc	301.20	320.50	- 3.40	2.65
Higher Inc Acc	820.30	872.60	- 8.00	4.14
Higher Inc Inc	437.00	464.90	- 4.30	4.14
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	213.50	225.50	- 0.40	5.46
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.48	98.74	- 0.18	5.46
Nth America	373.20	397.10	- 0.80	.
Europe	357.80	380.70	- 2.20	0.52
Bal Excell	92.10	97.98†	- 1.00	2.79
Brit Fxdnds Acc	116.90	124.40	- 0.90	4.68
Brit Fxdnds Inc	78.18	83.18	- 0.65	4.68
Global Opps	101.00	107.50†	- 0.70	.
Balanced Acc	62.93	67.69	- 0.49	
Balanced Inc	59.40	63.29	- 0.47	.
Japan Acc	41.69	44.36	- 0.28	..
Pac Basin Acc	397.90	423.40	- 2.80	0.86

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.00	140.10†	...	6.97
High Inc Equity	185.40	198.30	- 0.60	4.35
Worldwide Bond	272.20	289.70†	.	4.63
American Growth	395.30	422.60	- 0.40	0.30
Asian Pacific	317.50	339.60	- 0.80	0.08
Assets & Earnings	306.20	327.50†	- 0.90	2.88
Euro Capital Acc	187.50	200.50	- 1.00	0.79
Extra Inc	42.99	45.73†	- 0.05	7.84
General	281.50	299.90	- 0.80	2.93
Global Opps	68.95	73.35	- 0.04	0.55
Japan	103.60	110.80	- 0.50	
Managed Inc	48.17	51.24†	- 0.11	4.68
Mastertrust	167.60	179.30	- 0.30	1.02
US Emerging Cos	211.50	225.00	- 1.10	
Ethical	81.76	86.98	- 0.10	2.15
International	135.70	144.40	- 0.40	0.50
Dividend & Growth	69.45	73.88	- 0.27	4.16
Global Grth & Sec	74.08	79.14	+ 0.04	2.35
Latin America	64.67	68.80	- 0.05	
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Amer Inc & Growth	61.90	64.23	- 0.34	0.15
Emerging Mkts	70.29	73.21	- 0.34	0.05
European	151.20	157.30	- 0.90	
Exempt	1086.00	1160.00		1.61
Extra Income #	46.75	49.20†	- 0.35	8.61
Far East Emg Eco	124.90	131.10	- 0.70	0.48
Fixed Interest #	25.38	26.40†	+ 0.05	9.00
Fund Inv Tst	153.50	161.10	- 0.10	9.53
Japan	163.70	170.20	- 0.50	
Latin American	57.11	59.44	- 0.22	0.82
Pacific	81.36	85.31	- 0.36	0.31
Property Share	74.36	78.07	- 0.28	2.25
UK Emerging Cos	69.61	75.24		1.28
UK Growth	54.79	57.06	- 0.46	2.06
Aber World Port #	80.80	82.37†	- 0.50	3.02
Ethical	77.21	80.29†	- 0.10	2.20
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.26	50.31†	+ 0.08	7.37

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resdnt Property #	99.42	107.00	.	5.30

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amity Income	92.28	97.91	- 0.25	2.31
Income Builder Inc	80.63	85.78†	- 0.66	4.45

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth & Income	287.80	307.60	- 3.60	3.02
Capital	504.50	539.30	- 5.00	1.17
Balanced	827.50	884.50†	- 10.70	2.35
Accumulator	1609.00	1720.00	- 20.00	1.81

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	102.40	109.22	- 0.60	1.83
American Portfolio	124.27	131.99†	- 1.57	1.01
European Portfolio	135.58	144.39	- 0.71	0.63
High Income	52.46	52.58†		7.47
Japanese Portfolio	61.78	64.80	- 0.34	
Pacific Portfolio	157.66	168.53†	- 0.63	1.08
UK Equity	97.30	103.90	- 0.79	3.42
UK Equity & Bd	58.19	61.66	- 0.29	6.19
UK Smlr Cos	51.31	54.86	- 0.02	1.25

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	772.52	784.20	- 2.92	4.36
Fxd Int Sec	155.40	156.02	- 1.81	9.17

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	779.82	791.60	+ 1.96	4.27
Investment Acc	135.95	136.50	+ 0.06	
Fixed Int Inc	129.33	129.85	- 0.42	8.93
Fixed Int Acc	235.58	236.52	- 0.79	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	80.18	84.01	- 1.68	5.39
Beck Bio-Tech	43.52	47.38†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	189.79	199.30†		0.44
City Fin Assets	79.12	83.08		1.85
City Fin Intl	88.72	93.16†	- 0.79	0.14
Friars Hse Cap	312.09	332.01		2.54
Buckley Wrld Grth	135.87	144.02	+ 0.59	
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	58.91	61.86†	...	3.46
Shaw Utilities	58.69	60.20†	- 0.93	6.05

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	52.86	56.09	+ 0.05	.

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Grth	81.55	86.76	- 0.17	.
Dragon Growth	72.11	77.12	- 0.44	0.33
Equity High Inc	90.11	95.57†	- 0.90	4.28
-do- Accum	131.27	140.89	- 1.30	4.28
Extra Income Inc	26.96	28.40	+ 0.12	7.25
Extra Income Acc	29.67	31.25	+ 0.13	7.25
European Grth	62.70	66.53	- 0.58	0.82
Evergreen	31.51	33.70	- 0.15	
General Equity	106.30	112.87	- 0.85	2.88
Japan Growth	42.88	45.82	- 0.17	
Pedigree Grth	64.79	68.43	- 0.48	2.35
Pod Sm Cos Inc	37.42	40.24†	+ 0.03	1.38
-do- Accum	39.98	42.90	+ 0.03	1.38
Retirement Inc #	27.37	29.58	- 0.22	6.13
Special Sits	46.22	49.70	- 0.17	2.44
UK & Overseas	59.95	63.62	- 0.58	0.55

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 888 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	70.95	73.90	- 0.44	4.09
Capital	84.30	87.81	- 0.84	2.61
High Income	52.49	54.67†	+ 0.15	6.84
Top 50	57.20	59.58	- 0.73	2.57

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	193.35	201.41	- 1.73	4.56
Long Gilt	44.24	46.07	- 0.11	5.96
Monthly Inc Plus	50.45	52.55	+ 0.01	8.53
Preference Share	47.74	49.73	- 0.09	7.84

Balanced Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Yield	141.51	147.41	- 4.17	5.79
Managed Fund	77.29	80.51	- 0.49	2.75

UK Growth Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	52.51	54.70	- 0.03	1.74
-do- Accum	62.07	64.66	- 0.03	1.74
UK & General	98.26	102.35	- 1.00	2.95
-do- Accum	129.29	134.68	- 1.31	2.95
UK Growth	197.49	205.72	- 1.65	1.37

International Growth Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Europe Growth	208.75	217.45	- 2.10	0.67
Far Eastern Grth	131.97	137.47	- 0.88	0.82
Global Bond	77.12	80.33	- 0.02	6.17
Japan Growth	101.46	105.69	- 0.60	
North Amer Grth	244.42	254.60	- 0.95	
Oriental Growth	84.51	88.03	- 0.40	0.26
Worldwide Growth	71.82	74.81	- 0.49	.

OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)

JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc #	106.10	111.98†	- 0.30	3.68
Sector Value Grth	107.30	113.18†	- 0.26	2.02
Hy 5 Europe	101.20	106.20†	- 1.10	2.37
States Grth	179.50	189.40	- 0.10	0.48
New Japan	91.33	96.29	+ 0.51	.

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	203.10	216.00	+ 2.10	.
Income #	222.50	235.69	- 1.40	4.22
UK Growth	87.11	92.67	- 0.38	1.85

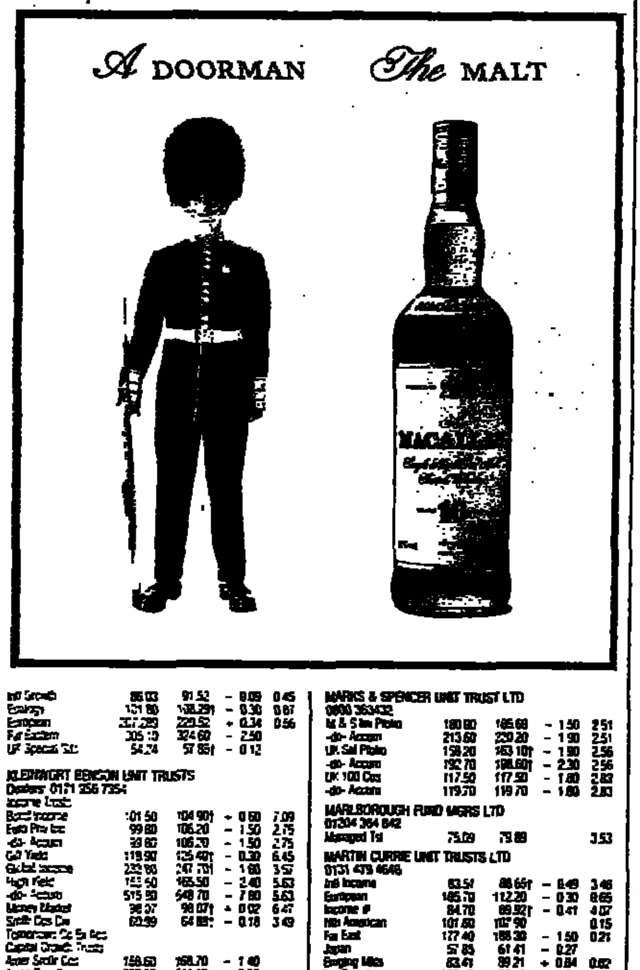
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	63.15	66.33†	- 0.02	5.09
Intl Equity Growth	85.75	91.14†	- 0.48	0.70
N Amer Growth	141.57	150.38	- 0.77	0.71
Special Sits Growth	28.38	30.17	- 0.10	2.11
UK Growth	467.51	497.35	- 2.03	2.66
-do- Accum	645.58	686.78	- 2.81	2.66

NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1406.20	1469.10†	.	3.90
Income #	1067.40	1076.20	. .	4.00

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	160.30	172.10	. .	3.52



	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	86.03	91.52	- 0.09	0.45
Ecology	131.80	138.29†	- 0.30	0.87
European	237.20	229.52	+ 0.34	0.56
Far Eastern	305.10	324.60	- 2.50	
UK Special Sits	54.24	57.85†	- 0.12	

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

Income Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bond Income	101.50	104.90†	+ 0.60	7.09
Euro Priv Inc	99.80	106.20	- 1.50	2.75
-do- Accum	99.80	106.20	- 1.50	2.75
Gilt Yield	119.90	125.40†	- 0.30	6.45
Global Income	232.80	247.70†	- 1.80	3.57
High Yield	155.50	165.50	- 2.40	5.63
-do- Accum	575.90	648.70	- 7.80	5.63
Money Market	98.07	98.07†	+ 0.02	6.47
Smlr Cos Div	60.99	64.88†	- 0.18	3.49

Tomorrows Co Sh Acc

Capital Growth Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Smlr Cos	158.60	168.70	- 1.40	
Asian Growth	323.50	344.10	- 2.50	
-do- Accum	380.20	404.50	- 2.80	
North American	173.40	130.60	- 0.53	0.22
European Special	125.50	133.60	- 1.70	1.24
European	177.60	188.90†	- 3.60	0.51
-do- Accum	235.20	250.20†	- 4.70	0.51
Global Eqty Inc	121.10	128.60	- 1.69	1.91
Japan	365.10	388.40	- 5.00	
Japanese Special	197.30	209.90	+ 0.80	
Smaller Cos	143.60	152.80†	- 0.40	1.10
UK Equity Growth	51.55	55.24	- 1.41	1.81
UK Index Inc	338.50	340.20†	- 4.40	3.90
Bariham Tst	106.00	114.00†	- 0.90	2.19
-do- Accum	107.50	115.60†	- 0.90	2.19

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income	308.50	328.79†	- 1.85	4.97
Bdr Growth	99.37	105.71		1.42
Inc & Growth Inc	70.29	74.78	- 0.64	3.70
Smaller Cos	90.71	96.50	- 0.38	1.23

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01277 690 432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Cap	461.20	493.30	- 4.50	2.38
UK Inc/Gth #	490.40	509.70	- 5.10	4.21
UK Income #	341.70	362.50†	- 2.80	5.02
UK Sm Cos	323.30	330.80	- 0.50	1.59
Euro Grth	162.20	171.90†	- 1.40	0.46
N Amer Grth	125.43	133.10	- 0.10	
Japan Growth	54.27	57.58	- 0.39	

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 365

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inc Ptolo	180.80	185.68	- 1.50	2.51
-do- Accum	213.60	220.20	- 1.90	2.51
UK Sel Ptolo	158.20	163.10†	- 1.90	2.56
-do- Accum	192.70	198.60†	- 2.30	2.56
UK 100 Cos	117.50	117.50	- 1.80	2.83
-do- Accum	119.70	119.70	- 1.80	2.83

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 642

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	75.09	79.89		3.53

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	83.54	88.65†	- 0.49	3.46
European	105.70	112.20	- 0.30	0.65
Income #	84.70	89.92†	- 0.41	4.07
Nth American	101.60	107.90		0.15
Far East	177.40	188.30	- 1.50	0.21
Japan	57.85	61.41	- 0.27	
Emrging Mkts	83.41	89.21	+ 0.84	0.62
Intl Growth	129.40	137.40	- 0.50	0.31
UK Growth	123.30	130.90†	- 0.90	2.61
UK Smlr Co	61.33	65.11†	- 0.05	0.95
Asia Pacific	37.92	40.56	- 0.46	0.39
Glob Grth PEP	61.49	65.27	- 0.38	1.32

MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0161 831 7433

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Select Portfolio	101.60	108.10	+ 0.50	

MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income	463.94	493.55	- 3.49	4.60
Global Inc	78.65	80.48	- 0.26	4.35
Brit Leaders	395.29	420.52	- 3.53	3.61
Intl Leaders	238.63	253.86	- 2.23	1.42
PAM Mg Bal Grth	72.28	75.19	+ 0.24	0.45

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 0800 445522

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	280.20	295.70†	- 0.90	
-do- Accum	299.60	316.20†	- 0.40	.
American Opps	128.40	137.00	+ 0.100	.
-do- Accum	130.08	138.70	+ 0.100	
British Blue Chip	98.26	104.20	- 0.60	2.31
-do- Accum	127.50	135.20	- 0.70	2.31
Cash	100.70	100.70	..	5.52
-do- Accum *	149.50	149.50	.	5.52
Emerging Mkts	122.30	131.50	+ 0.300	0.11
-do- Accum	123.90	133.28	+ 0.200	0.11
European Growth	325.10	344.60	- 2.30	0.13
-do- Accum	354.50	375.70	- 2.58	0.13
European Income	91.79	97.14	- 0.44	2.96
-do- Accum	132.08	139.70	- 0.62	2.96

هكذا من الاصل

■ FILM 1

It's got Glenn Close and dogs with spots but the live-action *101 Dalmatians* isn't a patch on the cartoon

■ FILM 2

The game gets serious in the latest Hollywood excursion into the *Star Trek* universe, *First Contact*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

Dennis Hopper, complete with pipe and walking stick, discovers the meaning of passion in *Acts of Love*

■ FILM 4

Andy Garcia stars as twin brothers in the lavish but hamfisted comic fable, *Steal Big Steal Little*

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** on a real-life *101 Dalmatians* with Glenn Close, but without the heart of the cartoon original

What has 404 legs and flaws?

Not content with having among their assets a fondly remembered cartoon called *One Hundred and One Dalmatians*, the Disney empire is now offering **101 Dalmatians**. It's new! It's live-action! It's got Glenn Close, dogs with spots, and lots and lots of publicity! Audiences will flock to it: we have been programmed to do so.

And audiences will have a reasonably good time. The physical action is cleverly staged. The lead dogs are photogenic; London is prettily dressed in snow, and Glenn Close's Cruella De Vil looks stunning in angular black-and-white fashions topped off with red gloves, red fingernails and poisonous words. "I live for fur: I worship fur," she says as she sets her sights on the dalmatians' outer garments.

But does the film bring all the rewards of its predecessor, made 35 years ago? Unfortunately, no. The updating in John Hughes's script does not significantly affect the story drawn from Dodie Smith's book: so what if Pongo's owner Roger, played by Jeff Daniels, designs video games, rather than writes songs? However, the decision to remove the dogs' voices certainly changes things. Denied the dogs' thoughts, we begin to stand outside the story, watching but not feeling.

Spectacle, of course, it has in plenty. Forget the dovetailing of canines and humans in the original cartoon. This is De Vil's show. Reimagined as a fashion designer with a swanky HQ overlooking St Paul's, she sweeps through the film in a succession of amusing haute couture follies designed by Anthony Powell. Close positively breathes contempt and greed, piercing and tasting her lines as though they were gourmet delicacies. But one-dimensional characters do not thrive on mass exposure, and monotony eventually sets in.

The film, directed by Stephen Herek, bangs away in other places when restraint would be welcome. One chase scene featuring two lovesick dogs and their owners — Daniels and Joely Richardson — is fine. Two is de trop. Scissors would also help the buffoonery of De Vil's bungling dog-nappers, Hugh Laurie and Mark Williams. Then, once the puppies are being rescued from De Vil's country pile, the film develops fatigue: there are too many dogs with not enough character.

After a film that brings spots before the eyes, **Star Trek: First Contact**, the second movie to feature Patrick Stewart and his TV chums from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, whisks us off to a universe draped in grey, or brown, where often the only bright light comes from a weapon being fired. Somehow, the future always looks this way, especially since *Blade Runner*.

But behind the hard surface lies a human drama of sorts, with a few androids and cyborgs thrown in. Or just plain Borgs: for these half-organic, half-mechanical creatures, popular on TV, run amok through the plot, assimilating many of the Enterprise crew as they cruise the universe and threatening to muck up past history by barging in on Earth in the year 2063.

Stewart's Captain Picard has a thing about Borgs: they assimilated him in a famous TV episode. He is driven by vengeance, and finds a worthy adversary in the Borg Queen, a femme fatale with mottled skin and electric cables for hair, effectively played by Alice Krige.

The film-makers, for their part, seem to be driven by a need to supply a large dose of conventional sci-fi spectacle. Hollywood's generous budget brings grandiose sights and sleek special effects, but less humour and fewer quirks than *Star Trek* old-timers might expect.

Luckily, some characters are strong enough to cut through the mainstream paraphernalia. Brent Spiner's Data, the android equipped with an "emotion chip", springs a few surprises, along with the expected jokes about feelings. Stewart himself, bald head and diction gleaming, tackles the adventure with customary authority.

Picard and Data aside, the Enterprise crew has comparatively little to do onscreen, although Jonathan Frakes's Commander Riker is kept busy. For he also directs, and earns credit for steering through a tangled script without losing momentum. This *Star Trek* adventure delivers the goods many audiences will want. I just wish it made the business of going boldly seem rather more fun.

On *Star Trek*, several hundred people slaved away to achieve startling sights. On **Acts of Love**, the film-makers make us jump simply by dressing Dennis Hopper in pipe, pullover, walking stick and schoolmaster glasses. Where is the man's gun, his sneer, and his psychotic mind? They have no place in Bruno Barreto's film.

Stuck in a Midwest hamlet with an ailing mother and a hesitant relationship with a fellow teacher, Hopper falls for the blonde, buxom charms of a new pupil with a horse to stable. Spotting her topless in his barn, he cries "Jesus Christ!", walks away, returns, and says: "I think we should make love".

Hopper shows unexpected strengths as an ordinary man finally discovering passion, while Barreto goes for the arty Midwest look: pained faces out of Dorothea Lang photos; simple compositions with doors and windows positioned in the centre. All this is interesting for a while, then the film gets stuck in a rut. Perhaps spunkier ladies would help: but neither Amy Irving (Hopper's long-time sweetheart), nor Amy Locane, the new girl, seem quite worth Hopper's attentions. The film is also difficult to place with an audience. Is this a thoughtful art movie, or particularly sluggish mainstream fare? Whatever it is, and whatever its strengths, *Acts of Love* is finally not good enough to please either camp.

Previously, there has been no trouble deciding the audience for Andrew Davis's films. He made *The Fugitive* and *Under Siege*: popcorn movies, and good ones, too. But then, for his own production company, he makes **Steal Big Steal Little**, a lavish but hamfisted comic fable with Andy Garcia as twin brothers, one bad, one good, fighting for control of an inheritance.

If the movie was smaller, lighter, and shorter, there might be a way to savour the japes and skulduggery. A sharper script would also have helped. As things are, we can only watch good talent and a fanciful idea getting lost.

Then we come to **Two Much**. Here is another tale of twins, although this pair is invented, dreamt up by Miami scallywag Antonio Banderas so that he can claim the hearts of two sisters. He needs Melanie Griffith for her money; he needs Daryl Hannah for love; and he dashes between bedrooms to keep both in play. Fernando Trueba's aim was sophisticated romantic comedy, but this first American venture for the Spanish director of *Belle Epoque* just sits on the screen and dies.

101 Dalmatians
Odeon Leicester Square
U, 103 mins
Cruella knocks spots off the dogs

Star Trek: First Contact
Empire, 12, 110 mins
Still going boldly, but not so much fun

Acts of Love
Warner West End, 18, 108 mins
Dennis Hopper, good guy

Steal Big Steal Little
Warner West End, 12, 115 mins
Hamfisted comic fable

Two Much
Virgin Trocadero, PG, 117 mins
Romantic comedy lays an egg

Joan Plowright has moving, wagging spots before her eyes in *101 Dalmatians*, Stephen Herek's big-budget remake of classic Disney

SNAP VERDICT

'Good, meaty, filling'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

☐ ***101 DALMATIANS***
Abi Naish, 21: Glenn Close gives a phenomenal performance as the leading villain. With plenty of cheese and a good, meaty filling, this Christmas appetiser is guaranteed to satisfy.
Jasmeet Anand, 19: Hugh Laurie saves the film from being a bit too sickly sweet with his wicked, dry humour.
Reena Kotecha, 19: Family fun but too unrealistic to be taken seriously by adults.
Sonia Noronha, 19: This Disney classic is suitable for all ages.

☐ **STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT**
Abi: Has all the ingredients of a *Star Trek* smash hit: fantastic special effects and nail-biting drama. There were a few shocks, though — mainly the transformation of the evil Borg leader into a saucy sexual temptress.
Jasmeet: One for Trekkies only. Brilliant visual effects, but the story is predictable.
Reena: Even non-*Star Trek* fans would find this film thoroughly enjoyable.
Sonia: Stunning visuals and *stunning performances*.

☐ **STEAL BIG STEAL LITTLE**
Abi: A colourful, flamboyant and passionate film. The plot is a little overzealous at times but with a double dose of Andy Garcia this film is destined for success.
Jasmeet: The scenery and background setting are magnificent, as is the acting.
Reena: A superb film with a sublime Latin American backdrop. Entertaining and humorous, but with a moving underlying theme of blood being thicker than water.
Sonia: The twin story is a bit predictable, but was brought to life by excellent performances. Unrealistic but very entertaining.

A sticky wicket for the controller

RADIO: The big question of the cricket Test series is who will carry the ball-by-ball broadcasts?

In the 1970s England's cricket team had a Scottish captain, called Mike Denness. Now radio coverage of England's cricket team has *a Scottish captain. His name* is James Boyle and he is imminently due to appear on the pavilion balcony to announce the arrangements for this winter's tour of New Zealand.

It is possible that Boyle, the new Controller of Radio 4, will need to wear pads, a helmet and thigh protection. *Test Match Special* has come to be regarded as an untouchable tradition, although in fact the BBC has only given ball-by-ball coverage to overseas tours in the past five years.

The first leg of the tour, already under way in Zimbabwe, includes the first of two Test matches against that country. The first starts next week. This will be covered by the *TMS* team on Radio 4 long wave. Coverage of the Zimbabwe Tests will be ball-by-ball, but that does not mean *every* ball. The matches start at 8am *British time*, but Radio 4 will not join them until *Today* is over.

But of course the Zimbabwe matches are not very important, as can be gauged from the fact that, despite their performances until now, England may even win one of them. Boyle's real test comes in New Zealand in January, where the time difference means that all the matches will be played at night our time (from about 11.30pm).

Boyle is on record as being "very sympathetic" towards people who either prefer Radio 4 long wave or cannot get the station on FM. But although no separate figures are available for *TMS*, internal BBC research puts the cricket audience at 500,000, a number most BBC producers would kill for.

Not, though, the ones on Radio 5 Live. What one insider calls "a vigorous debate" — which means something of a row — has been going on over suggestions that Radio 5 could possibly take coverage of the cricket at night, or at least share it with Radio 4. But Radio 5 reckons to have built itself a considerable audience, even at night, and does not want it offended by cricket.

As if this was not thorny enough, politicians are in on the act. They love the sound of their own voices, which means that Boyle would be a brave man indeed to axe temporarily *Today in Parliament*, which begins as the first ball is being bowled in New Zealand, from long wave.

He would also have to drop or truncate the midnight news and not carry World Service programmes, which Radio 4 carries in the small hours.

The resolution of these dilemmas will be announced shortly. The reaction, whatever Boyle decides, will prove that there are those who think running Radio 4 is a doddle and those of us who know different.

PETER BARNARD

Jack Hulbert: stiff upper lip and a very long chin

NEW ON VIDEO: The British Empire strikes back

Make mine a Bulldog

■ **BULLDOG JACK**
VCI, U, 1935
THE breezy air and jutting chin of Jack Hulbert can be a pain, but he puts his best foot forward in this exhilarating comedy-thriller, a parody of Sapper's Bulldog Drummond stories, with a few nods along the way to Fritz Lang's tales of master criminals. Walter Forde's direction matches the script for liveliness.

■ **FROM DUSK TO DAWN**
Buena Vista, 18, 1996
FLEEING gangsters set off for a rendezvous, the Titty Twister bar in Mexico, only to face a new danger: vampires. A juvenile romp from director Robert Rodriguez, working from a Quentin Tarantino script originally written in 1990 on commission from a special effects company that wanted to showcase goo and gore. Tarantino also acts, badly, alongside Harvey Keitel, Juliette Lewis and George Clooney. To get the best of it, you have to share the makers' enthusiasm for expending their talents on blatant trash. A rental release.

■ **MADE IN HEAVEN: THE FILMS**
Wienerworld, E, 1996
EVER in search of glamorous new ways to squander resources, the British Film Institute's production division has collaborated on a visual accompaniment to the final album by the rock group Queen. The directors include Bernard Rudden, mixed media specialist Simon Pummell and various pop promo veterans: the approaches vary from the narrative and poetic to the abstract. The achievement is very mixed.

■ **RAINBOW**
First Independent, PG, 1996
A QUARTET of kids travels over the rainbow to Kansas with a dog called Mutt. At first they find Dan Aykroyd, lamentably unfunny as a slowpoke sheriff. Then this oddball didactic fantasy takes a turn for the better, presenting the eerie spectacle of a world *drained of colour*. Bob Hoskins's acting as the kids' guru is not much better than his direction, but the film's sheer oddity wins it some points. Available to rent.

■ **THE TINGLER**
Encore, 15, 1959
WHEN this film was first released, some cinema seats were wired to generate mild electric shocks during scary sequences. Home viewing cannot reproduce the effect; but this famous movie by William Castle, a great showman rather than a great director, is still worth watching for its bizarre material. Vincent Price plays the coroner who makes the lucky discovery that the emotion of fear produces a parasite growing on people's spines.

GEOFF BROWN

Acme of diversity

JAZZ

Iain Ballamy
Ronnie Scott's

THE visit to this country in 1994 of composer/multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal was seen as something of a watershed, because the UK-based players in his band performed the Brazilian's compositions faultlessly, immersing themselves in his often tricky rhythms as if to the manner born.

The saxophonist Iain Ballamy was part of that band, and the experience left him confirmed in his admiration for two fellow Pascoal draftees, bassist Mark Mondesir and his drummer brother Mike. They form the rhythm section of Acme, Ballamy's new quartet — the fourth member is guitarist John Parricelli, whom the saxophonist met during their stint with Loose Tubes.

For the opening number the band paid musical tribute to their distinguished mentor with a piece entitled *Hermetology*. Ballamy's pure-toned, meditative soprano quickly settled into a bustling Latin groove, Parricelli began bouncing his familiar long-lined, spangly solos off the tumbling drums of Mike Mondesir, and a course seemed to have been laid for South America.

Ballamy, however, is a restlessly eclectic musician and the band's next piece, *Bliss-off*, was an oddly askew, African-flavoured composition featuring a suitably dancing, light-fingered Parricelli solo. A warbling tenor ballad, *Eggshells*, followed, full of softly swooning guitar chords and whispering cymbals grounded by aptly tentative bass, then it was back to Ballamy's snaking soprano for the jaunty *Inclination*.

But it was the set-closer, a heavy skidding theme showcasing Ballamy's more querulous side, that brought the band back to its native roots. Its title, *Battered This, Battered That*, is a quotation from the *Panorama* interview with that archetypal British 1990s cultural icon, Diana, Princess of Wales.

CHRIS PARKER

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CHANGING TIMES

مكتا جي الاعمال

■ CHOICE 1

Richard Briers is Ebenezer in Neil Bartlett's staging of *A Christmas Carol*

VENUE: From tonight at the Lyric Hammersmith

■ CHOICE 2

Nicholas Hytner directs *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at the National

VENUE: From tonight at the Cottesloe

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Imogen Cooper plays Schumann with the RSNO in Glasgow

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Concert Hall

■ RECORDS

Anne-Sophie Mutter's powerful reading of the Sibelius Violin Concerto: one of the year's best CDs

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Richard Briers plays Ebenezer in Neil Bartlett's adaptation. Let us hope they bring astringency to a tale that often drips with golden syrup.
Lyric, King Street, London W6 (0181-741 2311). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 18, 7pm. Then 7.30pm most evenings until Dec 26 when Mon-Sat (except Jan 1), 7.30pm. For mats (2.30pm) contact box office ♿

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN: Nicholas Hytner directs a second play by award-winning new author Martin McDonagh, set in the early 1930s on an island off the west coast of Ireland not chosen by Robert Flaherty for his film *Man of Aran*.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Jan 7, 7pm. In rep. ♿

SOUTH BANK SERENADE: Eighteenth-century music specialist Frans Brüggen conducts the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** in works by Haydn and Mozart and, unusually, a concerto for double bass and orchestra by their contemporary, Dittersdorf, with OAE double bassist Chi-chi Nwanoku. Meanwhile, Robert Habermann follows his successful 80th birthday tribute to Frank Sinatra to sing **Sinatra: The Movie Songs**, including favourites such as *Three Coins in a Fountain*.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). *OAE*: Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm; *Sinatra*: Purcell Room, 8pm ♿

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL: Rambert Dance Company's autumn tour ends with its debut appearance at the Hippodrome. An outstanding repertoire includes Christopher Bruce's enduring hit, *Rooster*, set to music by the Rolling Stones, Kim Brandstrup's ghostlike *Eidolon* and Bruce's *Stream*, which received its world premiere at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth last week.
Hippodrome, St Augustine's Parade (01179 2994444). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

GLASGOW: Imogen Cooper joins the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** for Schumann's Piano Concerto, which is followed by Mahler's epic, final Tenth Symphony, reconstructed by Deryck Cooke from the composer's sketches. The conductor is Hans Graf.
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street, Glasgow (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

HUDDERSFIELD Lawrence Batley Theatre presents a musical adaptation of **The Pied Piper**, based on the original story by Robert Browning. Written and directed by Ronan Paterson.
Lawrence Batley, Queen's Square (01484 430528). Opens today. Various times; phone box office for details. Until January 4 ♿

MANCHESTER. The Bridgewater Hall's resident orchestra, the **Hallé**, under its conductor Kent Nagano, performs Prokofiev's *Sinfonia Concertante* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4. With Lynn Harrell, cello.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Mysteries of Ancient China (0171-636 1555) . . **Catto**: Dennis Swett "The Sun Sets Over Hong Kong" (0171-435 6660) . . **Christopher Hull**: David Lewis: Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500) . . **Curwen** Fitzrovia Gallery Opening Exhibition: "Salon des Graphiques" (0171-636 1459) . . . **Jill George**: Chris Orr; Dale Devereux Barker (0171-439 7319) . . . **Leighton House**: Silver to dine for! (0171-602 3316) . . . **Michael Goedhuis**: Nature in China, Paintings by Wang Jianan and Cai Xiaoli (0171-629 2228) . . **Tate** Art Now: Nicholas Pope "The Apostles Speaking in Tongues" (0171-887 8000) . . **Tom Blau**: Open Ended (0171-378 1300)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

■ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**: The Christmas shows at this theatre are among the very best in the country. Laurence Boswell directs this year's, with marionettes and automata staffing the Beast's palace.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Various times, 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 7pm. Until February 1.

□ **THE CHERRY ORCHARD**: Tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Wilton, Alec McCowen and David Troughton, in a production by Adrian Noble considered the best in living memory.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **DICK DAREDEVIL**: Action hero of 1944 radio comes to life in the London of doodle-bugs and jitterbugs. Musical fantasy from Phil Willmott's Steam Industry, set in wartime Fitzrovia.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tue-Sun, 7.30pm

◪ **THE HERBAL BED**: Peter Whelan's exploration around a true incident in the life of Shakespeare's daughter. Moral attitudes questioned, love tested. Michael Attenborough directs.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. In rep

■ **MARRY ME A LITTLE**: Fringe theatre with a growing reputation for staging musicals revives this 65-minute Sondheim. Clive Paget directs Rebecca Front and Clive Carter as the young couple moving into their first apartment.
Bridewell, Bride Lane, EC4 (0171-936 3456). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 16, 7.30pm. Then Dec 17, 19, 27 to 30, Jan 1 to 4, 7-11, 7.30pm; mats Jan 5 and 11, 4.30pm

■ **NINE**: The Arthur Kopit/Maury Yeston musical based on Fellini's *8½*. Larry Lamb plays the great director; among the women who bewilder him are Clare Burt, Eleanor David, Ria Jones, Sara Kestelman and Dilys Laye.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS**: Another West End showing for the cult songfest by guys in black glasses.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 9pm.

□ **PLUNDER**: Griff Rhys Jones and Kevin McNally in merry, though terribly snobbish, Ben Travers farce. With Kevin McNally and Sara Crowe.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS**: Rubber-limbed Miltos Yerolemou plays the much-put-upon servant in Ted Craig's production of Goldoni's classic comedy.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Tues, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 5pm (no perfs Dec 15, 22, 25, Jan 1. Dec 16, 26, 6.30pm, Dec 31, 8pm.

□ **SHAKESPEARE FOR MY FATHER**: Lynn Redgrave uses Shakespeare to illustrate her emotions for her father, Sir Michael.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. ♿

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800)
◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072)
□ **An Ideal Husband**: Old Vic (0171-928 7616) . . . ◪ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909)
□ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**, Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

A CHINESE GHOST STORY: Delirious mix of martial arts, horror comedy and ghostly antics; a cult success from the late 1980s, with Leslie Cheung. Director, Ching Siu-Tung.
NFT (0171-928 3232)

THE DAY OF THE BEAST (18): Priest tries to avert the anti-Christ's birth. Satanic romp that eventually loses steam, from Spanish director Alexis de la Iglesias. With Alex Angulo.
Metro (0171-437 0757)

FEELING MINNESOTA (18): Unappealing drama about two warring low-life brothers (Keanu Reeves and Vincent D'Onofrio). Director, Steven Baigelman.
Ritzy (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** (15): Uneven comedy about a dysfunctional family, directed by Jodie Foster. With Holly Hunter and Robert Downey Jr.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990)

◆ **JINGLE ALL THE WAY** (PG): Aggressively American Christmas comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a dad in search of a prized action toy. Director, Brian Levant.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS (15): Pleasant coming-of-age saga set in Dublin, 1977. With Jared Leto and Catherine O'Hara. Director, David Keating.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

BEAUTIFUL GIRLS (15): A good cast wasted in a tired tale of male fellowship. With Matt Dillon, Timothy Hutton and Uma Thurman. Director, Ted Demme.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **BRASSED OFF** (15): Yorkshire colliery band fights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor. Director, Mark Herman.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0800-888 911) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **THE FIRST WIVES CLUB** (PG): Broad comedy about vengeful Manhattan wives, with juicy parts for Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Goldie Hawn. Director, Hugh Wilson.
Empire ♿ (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE VAN** (15): Fun and games with a burger van during the 1990 World Cup. Strident version of Roddy Doyle's novel, with Colm Meaney and Donal O'Kelly. Director, Stephen Frears.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

The Times music critics make their choices from the albums released in 1996

Records of the year

CLASSICAL 1

Barry Millington

STANDING head and shoulders above every other record I have heard this year is René Jacobs's account of Caldara's oratorio **Maddalena ai piedi di Cristo** (Harmonia Mundi HMC 905221.22, £28.99). Not only is the music consistently ravishing, but Jacobs paces every number with a sure feel for both style and sense (qualities too often overlooked in these days of virtuosity-led Baroque performance). Maria Cristina Kiehr has the lion's share of heartstopping arias.

Percy Grainger's music is at last winning the wider audience it deserves. The Chandos Grainger Edition of complete works, launched this year, promises great things, but no single disc has yet eclipsed **Londonderry Air** from John Eliot Gardiner, the Monteverdi Choir and English Country Gardiner Orchestra (Philips 446 657-2, £15.49). Grainger's extraordinarily imaginative vocal arrangements are both touching and disturbing.

There have been several new recordings of **Sibelius's Violin Concerto** over the past 12 months, and for me the honours must be shared between the interpretations of Anne-Sophie Mutter (DG 447 895-2, £15.49) and the young Finn, Pekka Kuusisto (Ondine ODE 878-2, £14.49). Their readings are very different: Mutter's is an immensely powerful conception with savagely incisive articulation, while Kuusisto's displays both youthful spontaneity and a natural feel for the idiom sometimes missed by top virtuosi. André Previn's lowering accompaniment is ideal for Mutter (the orchestra is the Dresden Staatskapelle); Kuusisto has the dependable Helsinki Philharmonic under Leif Segerstam.

Also from the enterprising Ondine comes the latest symphony, his seventh, from the Finnish composer **Einojuhani Rautavaara** (born 1928). Subtitled *Angel of Light* (ODE 869-2, £14.49), it continues the Angel Series he initiated 20 years ago. The coupling is a major work in itself: Rautavaara'a Organ Concerto of 1976-77, which bears the title *Annunciations*.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from The Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

JAMES MORGAN

"Savagely incisive articulation": Anne-Sophie Mutter plays the Sibelius Violin Concerto

CLASSICAL 2

Hilary Finch

IN A year which has enhanced the catalogue with so many superb and long-awaited performances of hitherto little-known repertoire from every age, a choice as cruelly selective as this must finally be made on grounds of sheer hedonism. So first come Anne Sofie von Otter and her pianist Bengt Forsberg with **Wings in the Night** (£15.49), a revelatory collection of turn-of-the-century Swedish songs: sly folksongs, dreams of white summer nights and strange Symbolist visions from the pens of composers such as Wilhelm Peterson-Berger and Ture Rangström.

Isolated from the mainland of Scandinavia, afloat in the distant North Atlantic, Iceland has again erupted with several new recordings every bit as newsworthy as the latest fire and flood. Both elements are to be heard within the premiere recording of the **Saga Symphony** of Jón Leifs. Working in isolation in the first half of this century, Leifs gave subsequent Icelandic composers the confidence to make their own distinctive strides forward. Certainly these "scenes" from the sagas, forged out of the ancient song in parallel fifths (*tvisöngur*) and the rhythms of the old Icelandic *rimur*, in boldly idiosyncratic orchestration, are unlike anything anyone has ever heard — other than more Jón Leifs. The symphony is played with a conviction equal to that with which it was written, by the excellent Iceland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vänskä (BIS-CD-730, £14.99).

Finally, György Kurtág's 70th birthday year has stimulated a number of valuable new recordings: my favourite is that of the **Kafka Fragments** (Ondine ODE 868-2, £14.49), tiny freeze-frames of a little world made cunningly, and containing not a redundant word or note. Kurtág's intense and compassionate response to Kafka's words is perfectly recreated by the Finnish soprano Anu Komsi, and her conductor-husband Sakari Oramo, Simon Rattle's successor-elect at Birmingham, and here in his incarnation as solo violinist.

[illegible]

John Higgins

THE operatic event of the year also provided the opera set of the year: Verdi's **Don Carlos** at the Châtelet in Paris (EMI 7243 5 56152 2, three CDs, £45.99). Mattila, Alagna and Hampson led a cracking cast on cracking form and the subsequent recording carried all the excitement of the performance, restored, virtually in full, to French. It also introduced a conductor of whom we will be hearing much more, Antonio Pappano. Available on video (Warner 0630-16318-3).

Another crack cast distinguished Solti's **Così fan tutte** (Decca 444 174-2, three CDs, £45.49) which eclipses all other recent versions of Mozart's opera. It is not easy to imagine a wittier or more attractive pair of sisters than Renée Fleming and Anne Sofie von Otter. Nor is Frank Lopardo's Ferrando going to be surpassed for some time. Solti's sunlit approach is in blessed contrast to that of rivals determined to fill every *Così* corner with anguish.

Jean Sablon's **Je tire ma révérence** (Conifer 75605 52226-2, £8.49) slipped out virtually untrumpeted in midsummer. He was the master of the hand-held mike, Mr Super Relaxed, whose songs of love and regret summed up all that was once best in French cabaret. Most of the tracks date from Paris of the 1930s and Sablon is joined by such ace musicians as Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli.

Dame Joan Sutherland's seventieth birthday last month was celebrated in style with Decca's remastering of one of her earliest records, **The Art of the Prima Donna** (452 298-2, two CDs, £19.99), made 36 years ago just after *Lucia* at Covent Garden had catapulted her to overnight fame. Here are Sutherland's first bites at the roles she was later to claim as her own: Bellini's Elvira and Amina, Verdi's Violetta, Rossini's Semiramide. There is pure joy in this singing.

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■ OPERA

La Scala opens its new season with a wildly expensive — and dreadful — production of Gluck's *Armide*

■ CONCERT

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts a thrilling performance of György Ligeti's Requiem with the Philharmonia

THE TIMES ARTS

■ POP

At his Brixton Academy gig, Beck throws a little bit of everything into a high-speed cultural blender

■ THEATRE

Matthew Francis directs a thrilling new production of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* at Greenwich

György Ligeti with Esa-Pekka Salonen: a thrilling partnership

An awesome space odyssey

Philharmonia/Salonen
Festival Hall/Radio 3

GYÖRGY Ligeti's Requiem is one of the few pieces of uncompromising avant-garde music that nearly everybody has heard, even if they don't know it. It supplied the unearthly choral effects on the soundtrack of Kubrick's film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. And the overwhelming impression of the Requiem — of awesome power allied to inscrutable super-intelligence; of humanity (individual voices) dissolving into a vast cosmic pattern that we cannot even dimly understand (the hubbub) — does mirror Kubrick's fable of man hurtling through space under the control of a malign computer.

But that brief snatch on film scarcely prepares one for the impact of the full work experienced in the concert hall. And on Monday, as part of the South Bank's Ligeti festival, Esa-Pekka Salonen conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra and London Sinfonietta Chorus in a thrilling performance.

Ligeti interweaves voices of the same register — all the basses, for instance — into tight clusters of adjacent notes, and then weaves those clusters into each other. At first the resulting sound seems totally opaque, totally without movement.

But gradually, with the help of orchestral shading, it opens out into an explosive Dies Irae with scything brass outbursts and histrionic intrusions by virtuosic solo voices (Charlotte Hellekant and Sibylle Ehlert superb here). Finally comes an ethereal coda, like a frozen half-life. It contains the key to the whole work, or so the composer says. The first-time listener may not be so sure. But few choral works written since 1945 make such a powerful impression.

What a pity that it was prefaced here by Debussy's woeful "mystery play", *Le martyre de Saint Sébastien*: five minutes of musical brilliance preceded by 60 minutes of drivel. How anybody can take seriously this preposterous exercise in high-camp masochism is indeed a mystery.

But they do. Salonen coaxed beautiful timbres out of a hugely inflated Philharmonia in the dribs and drabs of incidental music. The actress Kelly Hunter swooned through the perfumed prose about the lovely lad who craves torture and execution. Various soloists popped up from improbable corners to warble ecstatically about the joy of pain, or vice versa. Choruses oohed. Lights flashed. And everybody kept a commendably straight face — the only straight thing in the whole work.

RICHARD MORRISON

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** is appalled by the extravagant opening of Milan's La Scala season

No expense spared, unhappily

The new production of Gluck's *Armide* (1777) that opened the season at La Scala on Saturday could well have served as the centrepiece of a weekend seminar on arts funding — and indeed should have done, as it served little other purpose. To those accustomed to the wares of cash-strapped British opera companies, it was an eye-opener. I spent most of the evening wondering what on earth this show could have cost — the combined production budgets of the Garden and the Coliseum for a year, probably — and the rest of the evening wondering why. As a display of conspicuous consumption it verged upon the obscene, and explained the fierce resentment of La Scala felt by other Italian companies, many of them as cash-strapped as ours.

Given that what happened on stage had precious little to do with Gluck's opera — indeed, betrayed it — there could be no more powerful argument for stringent financial control from someone, somewhere. The décor was by Pier Luigi Pizzi, who also directed. A series of massive, three-dimensional sets was unveiled behind drops composed of paintings as if in a gallery — a different set of paintings, if you please, for each act. Gold leaf glittered, mechanical horses trundled about, a huge false baroque ceiling flew in for ten minutes, tilted for no reason — talk about effects without causes — and disappeared, never to be seen again. Hundreds of costumes for principals, chorus and dancers in extravagant fabrics were changed at the drop of a hat, and many were hideous — there cannot be an ostrich left in all of Africa with a feather on its hind quarters.

And where, you might ask, was Gluck's neo-classical "beautiful simplicity" amid all this witless operatic baroquery? Sunk without trace: if Pizzi was directing anything apart from his own sets, it was Lully's setting of the Quinault libretto, not Gluck's. Entirely missing in one of the great operas about sensual love were eroticism, magic, a sense of the demonic, and — in the fourth act — humour. What direction there was merely served the interests of the next visual effect.

Some, but not much, of what was missing was supplied in the pit by Riccardo Muti. He found the right languorous sexiness for the dance music (ill-matched by the mimsy posturings on stage) and laid out the musico-dramatic shape of each act persuasively. But with the huge Scala Orchestra producing a warm featherbed of 19th-century sonorities, Gluck's spare, tense soundworld seemed a long way away.

Anna Caterina Antonacci, Glyndebourne's stunning Ermione, sang the title role with equal warmth and in good French; in so large a theatre she couldn't quite deliver that sense of vocal overdrive essential in an Armide. Violeta Urmana certainly did, in her brief intervention as the personification of Hate, and it would be interesting to hear her in the main role. Vinson Cole sang the high tenor role of Renaud gently, sweetly and with succulent head tone; predictably, he was booed. But the undirected soloists honestly didn't stand a chance; they, and Gluck, might have done if the production budget — was there one? — had been cut by 90 per cent. I have never witnessed so vivid a demonstration of the hideous dangers of limitless subsidy.

Anna Caterina Antonacci in *Armide*: "There cannot be an ostrich left with a feather on its hind quarters"

THEATRE: *Huckleberry Finn* comes thrillingly to life in Greenwich

Escape on a raft of good ideas

THE vital ingredient when staging *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is some means to suggest that he really is rafting downriver. Russell Craig's design for this new production at the Greenwich Theatre, adapted and directed by Matthew Francis, naturally uses the revolve, but it is the three irregular blocks he puts on to this that help us to imagine so vividly the alternating calm and danger of the Mississippi, beneath the low, huge moon.

An inclined plane does for the raft itself but beyond this, sometimes coming to the fore, are two larger, hollow structures able to represent the steamboat that upturns the raft and at other times, simply by moving, to give the impression of the distant banks the raft goes past. One of these blocks is what we first see, turned to show its tip-tilted interior, Huck's bedroom at the Widow Douglas's house, where he is writhing in a double nightmare. Jim is in this scene too, singing a slave's song in a blue spot that gives his skin the look of polished ebony. Their fates are intertwined from the start.

MARILYN KINGWILL

Slave and boy: Clive Llewellyn and Daniel Newman

A book so vast and sequential has to be lopped, but it also has to be made to seem contained within three hours, and Francis splices several of the later episodes together in order to give the adventures dramatic shape. This leads to some confusion near the end when various colonels, judges and long-lost brothers keep popping back into the action, to give the impression that the Mississippi must have been as short as your average brook to allow distances to be covered so rapidly.

But this later awkwardness cannot efface the prevailing thrill of the production, the sense that what Huck and Jim are embarked on truly is an adventure, where the issue is life or death, freedom or slavery. Daniel Newman, apparently aged 20 but looking years younger, makes a marvellously sympathetic Huck, alertly puzzled by the weird antics of the adult world and boyishly proud of his inventive lies — creative lying, unlike the rubbish that excites Tom Sawyer. Huck's crucial dilemma, whether to revolt against the slaving principles he has been taught, is not lost, though Jim's anxiety at travelling ever deeper into slave country has faded.

Clive Llewellyn's Jim is another sympathetic portrayal, helping to create the loving friendship between slave and boy. Llewellyn is so tall that Huck's feet kick the air when the two embrace.

The feuding Grangerfords are given some stately, self-praising songs, adding enjoyable mockery to their strange behaviour, but Francis has introduced dashes of humour throughout the evening, including several interventions by wildlife that earned (and merited) amazed applause.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Undersold icon

POP

Beck
Brixton Academy

POST-MODERN minstrel Beck Hansen has become something of a generational icon since releasing his critically and commercially successful second album, *Odelay*, in the summer. Not only did it prove that his million-selling 1994 debut, *Mellow Gold*, was no fluke, it also consolidated this LA-based maverick's unique talent for squeezing Sixties folk, Seventies hard-rock, Eighties hip-hop and Nineties grunge into a high-speed cultural blender before adding surreal, stream-of-consciousness raps to the resultant musical mulch.

Expectations were therefore running feverishly high at his packed Brixton Academy show on Tuesday. In person, though, the diminutive Beck proved to be less than the sum of his parts, his studied amateurism appearing more shambolic than charming. Despite his stylishly retro three-piece suit and louche lounge-singer moves, this flush-faced stripling with his flailing mop of orange hair merely resembled an uncomfortable pre-pubescent attending a wedding.

Which might explain why he lacked sufficient authority to carry off many of his performance tricks. Dismissing his backing band early in the show for a lengthy solo spot on acoustic guitar and harmonica was a mistake, deadening the ambience before it had developed. Not even a bouncy romp through his breakthrough novelty hit, *Loser*, or an extended rap improvisation on *Where It's At*, could provide Beck with the popular start he lacked.

A turning point of sorts finally arrived with a raucous reading of his current hit, *Devil's Haircut*, a booming funk-rock anthem that was greeted with a mixture of rapture and relief. What followed was an uneven but energetic patchwork of gravel-voiced rap, pastiche country rock and hammy-showmanship as Beck faked a cheerful breakdown and had himself carried off stage, only to reappear in a garish Elvis Presley jumpsuit.

Beck's performance-art leanings are worryingly pronounced. Although his dazzling eclecticism undoubtedly stems from a genuine love of diverse musical forms, his presentation requires far more straight-faced self-assurance if it is to avoid coming across as smirking post-modern irony. Humour may be a vital ingredient of great pop, but Beck undersells his genuine musical merits by refusing to take himself seriously and encouraging us to do the same.

STEPHEN DALTON

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هكذا عن الأصل

Bordering on yesteryear

András Bereznay fails to lose himself in a chronicle of Europe made in maps

ATLAS OF EASTERN EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
By Richard and Ben Crampton
Routledge, £55
ISBN 0 415 06689 1

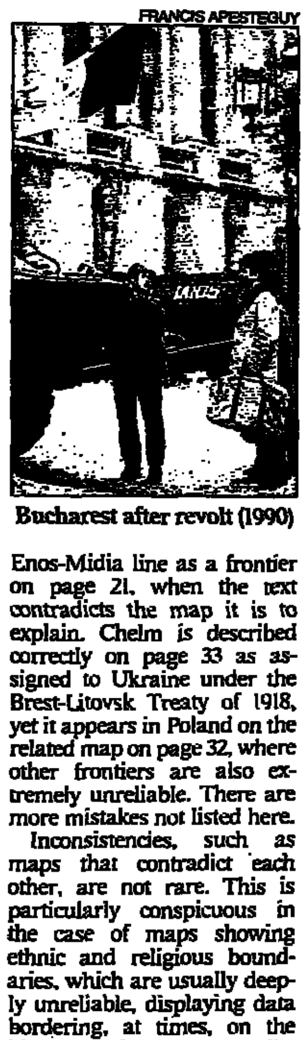
Maps present a unique medium of communication, yet an approach to historical cartography has, at times, prevented the utilisation of maps to their full advantage. Historians, barring a few such as Martin Gilbert, have tended to give the impression that they were less than fully comfortable with visual as opposed to textual exposition. The result is the reduction of maps to the level of auxiliaries, even in historical atlases. It follows that attention paid to maps is insufficient — which can lead to superficiality and inaccuracies. Many weaknesses of the Cramptons' atlas can be seen to spring from this tradition.

The authors' aim is to be comprehensive, yet the atlas is a wasted opportunity. The structure is somewhat unimaginitive: it is essentially chronological and the chapters of the consecutive periods are broken down chiefly on a country by country basis. This mechanical approach is not in itself a significant disadvantage, although a more issue-orientated structure would have focused the mind better. The central question is the neglect of the cartographic content. The problem here is not a lack of perfection: it is an apparent lack of care. The subject area alone should have invited more than usual attention to the details of mapping, given the frequent and large-scale frontier changes and ethnic conflicts. The factual unreliability is compounded by an atlas purporting to aim at the academic market.

The errors are frequently severe. On page 6, *Administrative boundaries in Austria-Hungary*, three redundant frontier lines feature. The inclusion of the one between Transylvania and Hungary — which was in fact obsolete from 1867 — may result in undesirable implications concerning the Hungarian-Romanian controversy. A few administrative entities featured there are no less anachronistic: some become dysfunctional for the period (Banat, Transylvania), others were yet unknown quantities (Slovakia, Ruthenia).

Another map of *Territorial changes after the Balkan Wars* (1912-13) erroneously indicates the area between the Enos-Midia and the Chatalja lines as a gain by Bulgaria. The Chatalja line, although reached by Bulgarian troops, has not functioned even briefly as a political frontier. There are instances, as indeed the correct description of the Enos-Midia line as a frontier on page 21, when the text contradicts the map it is to explain. Chelm is described correctly on page 33 as assigned to Ukraine under the Brest-Litovsk Treaty of 1918, yet it appears in Poland on the related map on page 32, where other frontiers are also extremely unreliable. There are more mistakes not listed here.

FRANCIS APESTEGUY



Bucharest after revolt (1990)

Inconsistencies, such as maps that contradict each other, are not rare. This is particularly conspicuous in the case of maps showing ethnic and religious boundaries, which are usually deeply unreliable, displaying data bordering, at times, on the bizarre. Inherent contradictions, however, are not there alone. The area regained by Hungary from Romania in 1940 is featured correctly on page 80, wrongly on page 120. Towns and area names appear at times peculiarly illocated, with the oddest spellings — only to appear spelt correctly in the good glossary.

Diagrams and graphs are useful additions, but one of them, on page 139, is impossible to interpret. Keys are on occasion incorrect. Some curious things occur. Each map is allocated with grid markings, superfluously so as no corresponding data of grid reference is provided in the index. Maps that show the comparative overview of frontiers which would be relevant at either end of the book, are dropped incongruously on pages 144-150, with no reference to their existence in the contents.

These problems alone could undermine the credibility of any reference book, yet this atlas has more. Consistency of cartographic quality of all maps featured is a *sine qua non* of any atlas publication. This is lacking here. Most maps are sketchy: the cartographic methods employed are frequently substandard, after which the maps of the last two sections, of greatly superior quality, come as a surprise. Sadly, most of these are largely devoid of information more specific than found in ordinary geographical atlases.

The text accompanying the maps is the best part, although not free from errors. It is mistakenly stated that the Greeks were not required to cede territory in 1897 after their war with the Turks, and it is odd to read about tension in 1815-48 between Vienna and "Budapest". Not only was "Budapest" created later — in 1873 — but also the seat of the Hungarian Parliament was Pozsony until 1848.

On occasion the colourful gains ground at the expense of the important. Space is found to tell of a Romanian's fainting on hearing the terms of the 2nd Vienna Award in 1940 when northern Transylvania was returned to Hungary, while in describing the Bucharest Treaty of 1918, the crucial fact that Romania annexed Bessarabia remains unmentioned.

Despite these problems, the text is essentially useful and informative. Its quality is certainly far superior to that of the maps, raising the question whether the authors would not have served their readers better if they had remained entirely with the means of communication in which they are so clearly more at home.

Andrds Bereznay conceived and compiled the maps of The Times Atlas of European History *(Times Books, £25), and contributed to* The Times Atlas of the 20th Century *(Times Books, £25).*

Roy Porter examines Victorian psychiatry and is shocked by how little has changed

19th-century cruelty and corruption in Bedlam were nothing new: William Hogarth's *Rake's Progress* (1735) depicting the squalor of life in the asylum

Still a great distance from Utopia

MASTERS OF BEDLAM
The Transformation of the Mad-Doctoring Trade
By Andrew Scull, Charlotte MacKenzie and Nicholas Hervey
Princeton University Press, £23
ISBN 0 691 03411 7

WILD BEASTS AND IDLE HUMOURS
The Insanity Defense from Antiquity to the Present
By Daniel N. Robinson
Harvard University Press, £19.95
ISBN 0 674 95289 8

The public's verdict on psychiatry has never been more jaundiced, and the insights afforded by this pair of books into its 19th-century roots help to show why. A collaboration between three leading historians, *Masters of Bedlam* offers an engrossing gallery of the pioneers of Victorian psychiatry. The moral of these biographical sketches is that, for all their good intentions and sanguine rhetoric, the enterprise was always shaky, often sleazy, and at bottom intellectually hollow.

The first "suspect" is John Haslam, the apothecary to Bethlem Hospital at the dawn of the 19th century, though soon to be fired after a parliamentary investigation had exposed cruelty and corruption in Bedlam's management. Haslam brought his fate upon himself, ratting on his colleagues before the MPs (the late surgeon, he revealed, had been an alcoholic who had himself needed a straitjacket), and defending practices too harsh to be acceptable in an age of reform.

After Haslam, any self-respecting psychiatrist had to be a reformer. At London's Hanwell Hospital John Conolly pioneered "non-restraint", freeing inmates from chains and straitjackets; Samuel Gaskell, superintendent in Lancaster, showed how a madhouse could be run both economically yet humanely; Alexander Morison set up the first psychiatric lectures; John Bucknill, head of the Devon Asylum, gave the profession dignity by writing textbooks, editing journals and imparting an air of muscular Christianity in the Arnold of Rugby manner; and, most optimistically, the Scot, W. A. F. Browne, declared the asylum of the future world be a "Utopia".

However admirable and admired, all such worthies reveal psychiatry's fatal flaws. Like Haslam, Morison too was involved in a Bedlam scandal. Conolly who, like Bucknill, was long the scourge of "the trade in lunacy", eventually stooped to running a private asylum himself and bending the certification laws in the process; while in his later years Bucknill lost faith in the efficacy of the national asylum system he had championed.

And this book's sense of wasted labour and despair culminates in a superb chapter on Henry Maudsley, the gloomy giant of late Victorian psychiatry, who feuded with all his colleagues and finally deemed his profession a futile enterprise, since it offered false hope to degenerate specimens it couldn't help. This Jacques-like figure eventually chucked in the towel, went off to watch cricket in Australia (even then English cricket was on the slide), and left his fortune to found a new sort of hospital that would be as unlike the Victorian asylum as possible.

A comparable portrait of an ambiguous legacy is offered by *Wild Beasts and Idle Humours*. An American psychologist, Daniel N. Robinson, traces the development of the insanity plea, exonerating from punishment criminals judged to have been mad at the time of committing their crime. Traditionally, commonsense criteria were used; but in the 19th century psychiatric experts began to elbow their way into the witness box.

As well as providing an assured historical survey, Robinson offers an indictment. These days, he claims, justice is threatened by the irresponsible proliferation of so-called medical evidence allegedly proving the psychiatric unfitness of defendants to stand trial. He implies that most of this "expertise" presented before the courts is "arbitrary" or "capricious"; and that the finger of blame for this development should be pointed at the empire-building activities of Victorian psychiatric professionals — and the credulous willingness of courts and the public to listen to the "couldn't help it" school.

Robinson's thrust — and it comes out clearly in a bone he picks with Scull — is that those who have the real know-how in these matters are the lawyers. Believe that if you will. The clear message of both these books, however, is that, while Victorian psychiatry staked its claim to a unique medical insight into the cause and cure of lunacy, such claims were built on sand. The monotonous regularity with which mental patients released into the community still prove violent and dangerous suggests things have changed all too little.

A remarkable demonstration of love

Anne Karpf

RESISTANCE OF THE HEART
Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany
By Nathan Stoltzfus
Norton, £21
ISBN 0 393 03904 8

ROSA'S CHILD
By Jeremy Josephs
I. B. Taurus, £16.96
ISBN 1 86064 122 9

While some (shockingly) have already detected the beginnings of Holocaust-fatigue, the flow of stories about the Holocaust remains unstanched. It seems rather to accelerate as new documents become available and a sense of millennial urgency grows. These two new contributions remind us just how much remains unknown.

Nathan Stoltzfus has turned a paragraph of history into an inquiring book. For one week in March 1943, outside Nos 2-4 Rosenstrasse, Berlin (the Jewish community's social services centre), more than 150 non-Jewish women conducted a noisy, daily and ultimately successful demonstration demanding the release of their Jewish relatives forcibly held inside. As a result of their families' protests the arrested, either intermarried Jewish husbands or *Mischlinge* (children with one Jewish parent), escaped deportation and survived the war.

In part it is a story of female resourcefulness. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws forbade new marriages between Aryan and Jew, and put pressure on the Aryan partners in old ones to divorce their spouses. Those wives who didn't — the majority — were mostly rejected by their German families and friends and suffered the loss of their Jewish in-laws. Their action is another chapter in the history of effective non-violent direct action.

But Stoltzfus uses the incident to ask wider questions about the Nazi project and its success. Hitler vacillated extraordinarily on the whole issue of intermarriage and *Mischlinge*, finally deferring their extermination indefinitely — because, argues Stoltzfus, Nazism advanced through its apparent legitimacy: Hitler constantly strove to avoid exciting popular dissent. By 1942 the Nazis had successfully isolated German Jews from the rest of the population so that they could be dispossessed and expelled without protest, but extricating intermarried Jews from the web of German families proved too incitative. Had Germans reacted with equal vigour when "full Jews" were being prised from their cities and towns, argues Stoltzfus, then the Final Solution might have faltered.

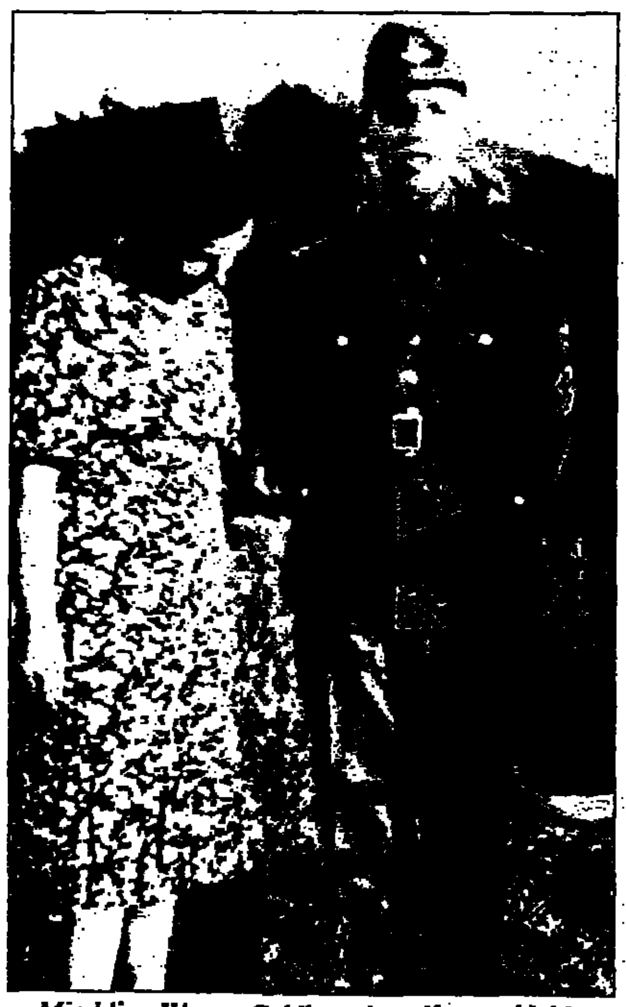
His argument would seem to support Daniel Goldhagen's recent controversial claim that German anti-Semitism was the motor of the Holocaust: Stoltzfus gives many examples of Germans denouncing and policing their intermarried and *Mischlinge* neighbours, but also acknowledges that the Nazis may have tolerated the Rosenstrasse protest because it touched only the periphery of the Final Solution.

It is a well-argued book, flawed only by purple writing in the insufficiently edited case histories which interlace painstakingly researched historical chapters. This undermines the book's otherwise unimpeachable authority.

Susi Bechhofer was a *Mischling* who came to Britain from a Munich orphanage in 1938 aged three, two of the 10,000 children who escaped Nazi Europe on the Kindertransporte. *Rosa's Child* tells her gripping, moving story. Adopted by a controlling Welsh Baptist minister, she was not only stripped of her name and Jewish identity, but also sexually abused by him.

It wasn't until the 1980s that Susi, now Grace Stocken, a churchgoing wife and retired nurse quite bereft of any sense of who she was, began to try to trace her parentage, and discovered that her father had been a philandering Aryan who had abandoned her Jewish mother, Rosa, when five months pregnant. Rosa's life ended in Auschwitz; Susi's (she has reclaimed her birthname) began properly with the acquisition of this painful information about her own past and her mother's.

Again, a powerful story is ill-served by the gratuitous tropes more appropriate to a women's magazine. But as the book progresses, more of Susi's own first-person voice is included and with it her insight: together with *Resistance of the Heart*, *Rosa's Child* recovers more Holocaust victims and near-victims from the anonymity of the mass, and helps to restore them to individuality.



Mischling: Werner Goldberg, in uniform, with his mother, photographed by his Jewish father in 1938

Anne Karpf's The War After: Living with the Holocaust *is published by Heinemann, priced £16.99.*

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Not open to negotiation

Brian Crozier

FIGHTING TERRORISM
By Benjamin Netanyahu
Allison & Busby, £12.99
ISBN 0 85031 919 6

The young man who came to London in the spring of 1979 impressed me by his intelligence and his command of American English. He invited me to deliver the keynote speech at a conference in Jerusalem on international terrorism, on behalf of the Jonathan Institute, of which he was the director.

His name, of course, was Benjamin (or Binyamin) Netanyahu, and the Institute had been created to commemorate his brother Jonathan who had lost his life in the Israeli raid on Entebbe, Uganda, three years earlier. Ironically, our host was the Prime Minister Menachem Begin, himself a terrorist in his day as leader of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (although he claimed in his speech not to have been one since Irgun's targets were soldiers, not civilians).

In this short book, Netanyahu analyses recent examples of terrorism, such as the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York and of the Federal Building in Oklahoma. But his main target, having disposed of Soviet sponsorship of international terrorism, is the relatively recent exponential growth of the Islamic variety.

Certain passages make it clear why it has been particularly difficult for Netanyahu, as Prime Minister, to pick up the Israeli dialogue with Yassir Arafat's PLO, initiated by his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin. He refers to the PLO's "Palestine National Covenant" as "a hodgepodge of Nasserist Pan-Arab fascism and Marxist clichés about the end of 'colonialism', all of it aimed at destroying Israel as a Western intrusion into the Arab realm".

He is careful not to blame Islamic terrorism on Islam itself: "a great religion that has fostered, as in medieval Spain, some of the world's most advanced civilisations". Usefully, he gives accurate and apposite details of the roles of Iraq, Iran and Syria in sponsoring international terrorism, but also of the lesser known role of support groups in unexpected places, such as Belgium and Germany.

In his last chapter, "What is to be done", the author lists a series of measures that are worth quoting:

1. Sanctions on suppliers of nuclear technology to terrorist states. 2. Diplomatic, economic and military sanctions on the terrorist states themselves. 3. Neutralise terrorist enclaves. 4. Freeze financial assets in the West of terrorist regimes and organisations. 5. Share intelligence (with friendly countries). 6. Revise legislation to enable greater surveillance and action (against terrorists), subject to periodic renewal. 7. Actively pursue terrorists. 8. Do not release jailed terrorists. 9. Train special forces to fight terrorism. 10. Educate the public.

Personally, I have reservations against sanctions, which never seem to work. But the last chapter should be required reading for heads of government, including our own John Major, who opt for negotiations in preference to defeating terrorists.

Brian Crozier founded and was Director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, 1970-79.

هكذا من الأصل

Fine barrage from an artillery of words

Ian McIntyre finds that it is a good thing for even an educated man to read books of quotations

Emerson on immortality: "I notice that as soon as writers broach this question they begin to quote. I hate quotations. *Tell me what you know*." Winston Churchill, looking back on his youth, thought differently: "Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations* is an admirable work, and I studied it intently." Bartlett was running the University Bookstore in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when his book first appeared in 1855. Now in its 16th edition — its Oxford rival is only in its fourth — it remains the standard against which to measure all new contenders.

The odd man out in this selection is *The Guinness Chronicle of the 20th Century in Quotations* by David Milsted (Guinness Publishing, £9.99; ISBN 0 85112 606 5) — "a narrative of events as they unfold, told in the context of the words of the people who were involved in them". Somehow it doesn't quite work: the explanations are generally longer than the quotations and this creates a topsy-turvy effect, particularly as many of the quotes are notably unmemorable. *Keesing's Archieves* can breathe again.

The Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations (OUP, £15.99; ISBN 0 19 863158 8), provides an agreeable pendant to the *Oxford Book of Political Anecdotes*. The editor, Anthony Jay, is slightly carried away when he compares Nigel Birch's *Lost Leader* attack on Harold Macmillan in 1963 to the fatal thrust of Brutus's dagger, but his 4,000 quotations are a godsend to crosswork junkies, browsers and grazers and political ghost-writers.

Jay offers no instance of the wit or wisdom of the former Tory minister Kenneth Baker. For that we must turn to the Chambers *Dictionary of Quotations*, edited by Alison James (Chambers, £25; ISBN 0 550 21019 9), where we learn that in 1979 he said that if Conservative backbenchers wanted to get on, they must find a foothold "in the narrow strip of land that lies between *sycophancy and rebellion*". We also learn that Baker was the book's political consultant. Not a role in which he seems to have over-extended himself — the note attached to one of Churchill's sallies confuses Ernie Bevin with Nye Bevan.

Chambers claim to have cast their net exceptionally wide, their specialists including "activists, travellers, feminists and youth icons". Whether the "truly international" nature of their coverage will be appreciated remains doubtful. I am naturally sorry to learn that the *Syrian mystical philosopher* Abu'l-'Ala Al-Ma'arri (973-1058) was blinded by smallpox *in childhood, but lines like* "Consider every moment past/ A thread from life's *frayed mantle cast" did not* send me scampering to his collected works. The Peruvian *novelist José Maria Arguedas* was also lucky to scrape in with "Where is the country, my friend? It *is not in the heart or in the saliva*." Perhaps Fidel Castro's speechwriters will work it in somewhere.

All credit to Chambers, however, for rehabilitating Dean Acheson, President Truman's civilised and witty Secretary of State — he gets *four paltry mentions in the latest Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* (OUP, £25; ISBN 0 19 860058 5), and *Bartlett* unaccountably ignores him completely. "A real Centaur," he said of President Johnson, "part man, part horse's ass." I also liked his advice about the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover — "Trust him as much as you would a rattlesnake with a silencer on its rattle".

CORBIS

Truman's aide, Dean Acheson: wit revived

That deserved a place in Jonathon Green's *Dictionary of Insulting Quotations* (Cassell, £16.99; ISBN 0 304 34590 3), although Green makes amends with Gore *Vidal's elegant skewering of* Andy Warhol — "the only genius with an IQ of 60". He *includes Jonathan Miller's* "the bubonic plagiarist" (of Sir David Frost), but also *pads shamelessly with chestnuts* like "a nation of shopkeepers" and "sayings" like "*That isn't a dog; that's a* Fleming", which is apparently part of the folk wisdom of the Walloons.

Des McHale claims for his Wit (Prion, £9.99; ISBN 1 85375 232 0) "a breadth and freshness that cannot be matched by the standard books of quotations." Idi Amin ("I am still heavyweight champion of Uganda. Nobody is willing to fight me.") is certainly a new name, and so, to me, is Dave Dutton, represented by "Of course prostitutes have babies — where do you think traffic wardens come from?" Essentially a puveyor of wisecracks, *McHale* doesn't burden us with sources, although it's good to learn that Churchill *thought de Gaulle* resembled a female llama surprised in her bath.

From the Dictionary of Scottish Quotations, edited by Angela Cran and James Robertson (Gaelic con*sultant John MacInnes*, Mainstream Publishing, £20; ISBN 1 85158 812 4). I learn that Dame Barbara Cartland *thinks the Scots* are doing very well, but is saddened by their tendency to vote Labour: "I *wrote to the Prime Minister* and said, can't we do something about it?" The compilers of this substan*tial dictionary* also have political concerns: their work, they feel, "is one more step in the reconstruction of an *articulate*, progressive, self-determining society".

Another ambition is "to open the mouths of women made dumb by history", and this they achieve with a catholic range of entries, from the novelist Annie S. Swan to the missionary Mary Slessor. The psychiatrist Winifred Rushforth rates three entries, Janet *Breadheid*, executed for witchcraft in 1662, only one — the description of sexual *intercourse with the Devil which* she gave at her trial. (The editors' almost saintly sense of fairness moves them *to record the late* Nicholas Fairbairn's view of women MPs — "they are just *cagmags, scribheaps, old tattles*.")

Football manager Bill Shankly forces his way in with "Me havin' no education, *I had to use my* brains"; Sean Connery's entries make it clear he found another route to success; one of *Billy* Connolly's ("*Braveheart* is pure Australian shite") suggests that the comedian is a film critic *manqué*.

Kipling has a character who "wrapped himself in quotations — as a beggar would enfold himself in the purple of emperors". Enough imperial purple — and tartan — here to run up a wardrobe for every beggar in the land. And possibly a kilt for Bernard Levin.

Marble terms of figures from Classical mythology and history along the Great Axis of the garden of Versailles, circa 1690; from left to right: Ceres, Hercules, Achelous, Pandora, Hermes, a satyr and bacchante, Diogenes and Plato

From fertile France

Marc Jordon

GEORGES DE LA TOUR AND HIS WORLD
By Philip Conisbee
Yale, £30
ISBN 0 300 06948 0

VERSAILLES
The History of the Gardens and their Sculpture
By Stephane Pincas
Thames & Hudson, £48
ISBN 0 500 01701 8

HONORE DAUMIER
By Bruce Laughton
Yale, £45
ISBN 0 300 06945 6

Here are three new books about very *different kinds of* French art. But would the subject of *Georges de La Tour and his World* have recognised himself as a French artist? I mention this because La Tour, masterly painter of Caravaggesque scenes of gaming and candlelit devotional pictures, has been regarded as one of the glories of French 17th-century art ever since his rediscovery at the beginning of this century. Yet as the authors of this beautiful book (which accompanies an unmissable exhibition at the *Metropolitan Museum* in New York) are at pains to emphasise, La Tour was a *Lorrainer. For most of his life* Lorraine was an independent duchy squeezed between France and the German states and had its own distinctive artistic culture looking as much to The Netherlands as to Paris for inspiration.

One of the enigmas of the history of art is that La Tour was painting pictures that are rivalled only by Vermeer's for their introspective stillness at the very time that his home*land was in the grip of the* terrible miseries of the Thirty Years War. Much else is enigmatic about La Tour: very little is known about his life or the personality that lay behind his compelling paintings. There is a good deal of controversy surrounding the discovery and authentication of his works — one of his most interesting pictures, *St John the Baptist*, came to light as recently as 1994, while the Met's own *Fortune-teller* has been accused of being a modern fake. Such technical and historical small print is not always appealing to non-professionals. The book, however, makes these issues not only accessible but positively enjoyable. If you cannot get to the show put *Georges de la Tour and his World* at the top of your Christmas stocking list.

By contrast, nothing could be more emblematic of metropolitan France than Versailles and its gardens. We English are perhaps better at appreciating the individualistic and quirky side of French art, instinctively preferring the simplicity and "authenticity" of La Tour to the showy and depersonalised display of Louis XIV. Even such a quintessentially *grand siècle* personality as the Duc de Saint-Simon criticised the folly of trying to build the biggest formal garden in the world, complete with innumerable fountains, lakes and cascades, on a chalky plain conspicuously lacking a water supply.

Yet done it was. And as Stephane Pincas's *Versailles: The History of the Gardens and their Sculpture* underlines with its enticing combination of specially commissioned photographs, old paintings, plans and engravings, the magnificence *we can still enjoy on a day trip* from Paris is only a pale reflection of what Louis XIV, his gardener Le Notre and his artistic impresario Charles Le Brun intended.

It is not just that all growing things tend towards decay, but that the garden's creators were constantly striving for new and grander effects. The fountains and myriad other forms of sculpture that are the real *raison d'être* of this handsomely produced book were constantly being added to, moved, painted or gilded, replaced in more expensive materials or shifted to other royal parks. Pincas succeeds in giving an impression of this dynamic and in giving a sense of the animated and fantastic character given, under the *ancien régime*, to the stiffly clipped groves of box and hornbeam, the heaps of marble and bronze.

By day the play of light on sheets of jets of water and by night *torch-lit festivities* with bankrupting firework displays softened and melted this hard-edged scene into an opulent fairyland which mesmerised the Sun King's courtiers and foreign princes alike. It is ironic, as Pincas points out, that even before the French Revolution Louis XIV's ill-fated descendants were redesigning parts of the ultimate *jardin à la francaise* in the deceptively artless and newly chic English style.

Moving to the 19th century, no one would turn to the art of Honoré Daumier for uplift, specialising as he did in the more desolate aspect of contemporary urban life. His hatchet-faced lawyers, impoverished litigants, top-hatted *rentiers* and worn-out washerwomen are familiar from the hundreds of lithographs he produced for satirical journals.

Much less familiar are the paintings and watercolours with which he attempted to capture the attention of a more sophisticated market of dealers and collectors. In *Honoré Daumier* Bruce Laughton has written the first modern account of all the artist's strands of endeavour. But though this useful book is accessibly written and attractively illustrated, it is descriptive rather than analytical in its approach. The result is that it misses an interesting opportunity to probe Daumier's reasons for wanting to move from the news-stand to the Salon. Could it have been that in an age in which the main political slogan was "*enrichissez-vous*", Daumier the social satirist yearned for some of the prestige and wealth that went with the gold-framed easel painting? If so he failed, being unable to resist the temptation to satirise in paint the collectors he most wanted to impress.

An unwelcome change in the weather

John Gribbin

LABORATORY EARTH
By Stephen H. Schneider
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 81644 6

Stephen Schneider is one of the best-known American proponents of the idea of global warming caused by *human activities* — the greenhouse effect. He has carried out research at the United States National Centre for Atmospheric Research, and spread the word to a *broad public through* television appearances and a sequence of great, fat books. But this book is different. The latest in the "Science Masters" series, the format forces Schneider to present his ideas — the story of climate change in its entirety, since the Earth formed 4.5 billion years ago — as accessibly as possible in less than 200 pages.

It has to be said that the result is not the most entertaining or easiest read in the series, but it just may be the most important, providing a *sober perspective on environmental* changes that will shape all our lives in the 21st *century. Sobriety, indeed*, seems to be Schneider's watchword. He eschews extravagant *claims, and offers a serious* and balanced view, covering the co-evolution of climate and *life*, ice age cycles, and a clear explanation of how computer modelling of climate works and why the greenhouse effect forecasts should be taken seriously.

The facts are dramatic enough to need no embellishment (although I would have *liked to see them supported by* rather more accessible diagrams than the ones plucked from the pages of learned journals that appear here). We learn why (probably) the Earth was so warm in the time of the dinosaurs, and how even the lower end of the range of greenhouse effect forecasts project a warming in the 21st century ten times faster than anything that has occurred naturally for mil*lions of years*.

In this and other examples, Schneider meets critics of those concerned *about global* warming head-on, and demolishes their case that there is no cause for alarm. He describes the pattern of climatic changes around the world linked with a growing greenhouse effect as a "climatic fingerprint," and *shows how this pattern is* tantalisingly close to the pattern of regional and seasonal changes that the globe has experienced since 1960. Finally, he offers a plan of action to minimise the impact of the climatic changes that are already in the pipeline — much of it basic common sense, but seemingly all of it in need of repeating as we *continue* to release the gases that cause the warming at an increasing rate.

It may be a bit worthy, and it may be a bit dull; but it is well worth having alongside you to check the real facts the next time some spokesman for the coal industry tries to pull the wool over our eyes with claims that (a) the greenhouse effect doesn't exist and (b) if it does exist, it is a good thing.

Hotting up: desert blooms

John Gribbin is co-author (with Mary Gribbin) of Watching the Weather, *published by Constable, priced £14.95.*

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Great change out of small

Matthew Parris

HETEROSEXUAL DICTATORSHIP
Male Homosexuality in Postwar Britain
By Patrick Higgins
Fourth Estate, £18.99
ISBN 1 85702 355 2

The past may be another country, but are the 1950s alien territory so soon? To revisit the era is to be astonished at how far away the Britain where many of us *spent* our childhood now seems.

This is history, not the *histrionics* suggested by the title; and good history at that. There are really two books here, each the *product of* scholarship, each revealing — even startling — and each of them very readable indeed. Higgins has studied the work of the Wolfenden Committee in the 1950s, preparatory to its famous report leading to the partial legalisation of male homosexuality a decade later. In the second half of *Heterosexual Dictatorship he has* assembled a series of snapshots which show the conditions for gay men in Fifties Britain.

To speak of snapshots is not to suggest a perfunctory or slapdash approach. Higgins is an historian whose *thorough* and careful judgment shines through. His research has been intensive. His method — to proceed by detailed inspection of case histories, of newspaper headlines and of prevailing attitudes — is revealing. He demonstrates by textual analysis the growing obsession through the Fifties *of* Britain's popular newspapers with homosexual offences, combined with a *disinclination to name* the practice.

In the *News of the World between 1932 and 1959 he finds* hardly half a dozen uses of the word "homosexual" — the paper's court reporters hovering gingerly round the flame yet drawn to it again and again. Higgins sees this as evidence that gay men faced a conspiracy of denial, and in a way that is true. They did. In the tabloid press more recently, denial has given way to abuse and you will not find *The Sun* lacking in references to "poofs" throughout the Eighties.

But, beneath *tabloid* euphemism and tabloid abuse, something was happening which I believe to be more significant than the way journalists labelled homosexuality. They were talking about it, almost for the first time. The *Sun* has done more for homosexual emancipation by a *thousand* shocked revelations about the lives of the famous and the humble than *The Guardian* ever did by a score of right-on essays about sexuality.

Crowd control, Fifties-style: evidence of a hidden world?

I doubt whether Higgins would accept this. It is a measure of his professionalism that he can offer so fair-minded, comprehensive and *enlightening* a study alongside a personal thesis which is kept quite separate and which is (in my view) profoundly wrong. His view is illustrated in his final judgment on Wolfenden's work: "The path from Wolfenden through the parliamentary debates of the 1960s is a false trail, ending in a symbol, a *piece of legislation* which did nothing to promote tolerance or equality for homosexual men. Neither did it address the sorts of legal harassment faced by many homosexuals in Britain at this time."

There is a kind of false consciousness, to which I think Higgins has succumbed, which may arise in the later stages of any process of human reform. It involves a *denial that early efforts by* early reformers had any real legitimacy within the movement. *To say so is to make a* mistake: that of viewing the attitudes of another generation through the *lens* of our own, and finding even the reformers preposterously timid. Of course *they are! Of* course, to Higgins or me, those who, like Margaret Thatcher and *Keith Joseph*, voted consistently for homosexual reform on the basis that homosexuality was an unfortunate affliction but not one which should be punished, now appear illiberal. But in the context of their times they were brave and forward-thinking. Wilberforce's early proposals hardly began to address the problem of slavery. Lincoln's personal attitude towards the negro race was grotesque.

Patrick Higgins's exposé of the workings, internal wrang*lings and witness statements* of the Wolfenden Committee is absorbing. His access to confidential papers has been unprecedented and he has not abused it: his painstaking study of the committee's work deserves to become a classic *for this alone. His impression* that Sir John Wolfenden was a cold and ambitious man with an eye to the main chance rings true. His description of the committee, which has "skilful operators with a wide experience of British institutions which gave them a natural sympathy for authority, an ability to turn a blind eye at the appropriate moment and to avoid confrontations." sounds accurate; but what, I believe, *he fails to notice is that* these men and their work — ciphers, if you like — were a *symptom of underlying* pressure on a sexual rigidity which, even in the 1950s, was coming under intolerable strain. In however a confused and tentative way, the Home Office and the British Establishment recognised that and Wolfenden (perhaps sublimi*nally*) knew it too and knew what he had to do.

This is not to be regretted. It was not a dead end. *It is not* enough (though it is revealing) for Higgins to record that changing one bit of the law changed little in the immediate sub-culture of practising homosexuals in the Fifties. More timid souls existed, millions of us. For me, as a student in 1969, the knowledge that consenting adult homosexuality had ceased to be a crime said something to me about the future.

Self-confident in 1996, we can look back on those early changes as paltry, and Wolfenden's work as palliative. But it was the beginning. The unlikely coalition of tentative free-thinkers — Nich*olas Ridley, Roy Jenkins, the* Liberal Party and, yes, even the unloveable John Wolfenden, *among them — who so* plainly irritate Higgins but whose contribution he faithfully records, *did matter*.

Without meaning to, and because his book is so carefully researched, set forth so honestly and narrated so well, Higgins has paid them tribute.

هكذا عن الأصل

Smoking and drinking come under attack

Inflight alcohol can lead to anger

By Farrol Kahn

THE recent case of the millionairess who was tied up with her dog's leash by an American Airlines captain demonstrates how determined airlines are to curb drunken passengers. Yet alcohol is readily available and its abuse is one of the most common inflight problems.

The main reason for excessive drinking is fear of flying, according to Dr Eirikur Arnarson, a psychiatrist at the University of Iceland. "I know of passengers who begin to drink at 6am on a flight when it is customary for them to drink only socially in the evening," he says.

There are two kinds of drunken passengers, those in economy and those upfront. Those in economy tend to become aggressive, particularly when they are in a group. Because of the cramped conditions they feel overcrowded and tend to quarrel among themselves.

The inebriated passengers in first class are more difficult because they feel threatened by their lack of control over their surroundings. On the ground, they are in charge of every minute of their time.

Under the influence of alcohol they can go a little crazy. And unlike the people in economy they have power to wield, because of their wealth or position or both. They can sue and are not afraid of big corporations. They may also have a good case of negligence on the ground that the airlines have not informed passengers of the increased potency of drugs and alcohol in the air.

This is caused by the interaction between the physiological stresses of flight, particularly lack of oxygen, and medicines. As the former alters the brain's functions the actions of any drugs that affect the brain will be altered, too.

In the case of the American millionairess, she took a sleeping tablet. This can cause memory loss or antisocial behaviour. The outcome of her lawsuit will set an important precedent and could change the attitude of airlines towards drinking on board. They could start by informing passengers about the effect of alcohol in the air before they start restraining them, particularly those in first class.

● *The writer is director of the Aviation Health Institute (01865 739681)*

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Joe Roberts in Tahiti

Sandra Parsons in The Cayman Islands

Anjana Ahuja at the palace of Love

David Sweetman in Cambodia

Museums special

Insider's Paris

Insurer says no to heavy drinkers

By Harvey Elliott

A LEADING travel insurance company said yesterday that it would reject claims from Christmas holidaymakers who have too much to drink.

Sarah Joannides, marketing manager of Home and Overseas, Britain's biggest travel insurance company, said that holidaymakers risked more than a hangover from drinking. "There's nothing wrong with a bit of drinking on holiday," she said, "but it is worth remembering that if you lose something in the resort while you are drunk, your travel insurance may not cover you. Insurers cannot be in the business of protecting people who cannot take responsibility for themselves."

Her comments come after an NOP survey for the company revealed that more than half drank more abroad than at home and a third admit to becoming "tipsy" most evenings. Nearly 70 per cent of men and 55 per cent of women drink at lunchtime when abroad but only 37 per cent of men admit to being unable to hold their drink at night, compared with 63 per cent of women who said they felt tipsy.

Doctors also warned drinkers in all-inclusive resorts that they could be in serious danger of wrecking their health and urged tour operators to curb the amount of free drink on offer, after another survey showed that the average amount drunk in an all-inclusive resort was seven times the recommended level.

The survey, carried out in 50 resorts in the Dominican Republic, Barbados, Jamaica and Mexico, showed that the average customer drank 25 units a day, the equivalent of 12.5 pints of beer.

Tour operators rejected the findings as "nonsense". A Thomson spokeswoman said: "The resorts could not stay open, let alone make a profit, at that kind of consumption rate. We find that on the first day of a holiday guests might go slightly over the top because they suddenly realise everything is free. But the last thing they want is to wake up with a headache every day."

Professor Martin Plant, director of the alcohol research group, was horrified by the findings in the survey, carried out by Sunset Holidays, part of the Flying Colours Leisure Group. He said: "People drinking these amounts of alcohol are putting themselves and other people at risk. It is grossly irresponsible of the tour companies to go to the extremes they do to make unlimited alcohol available."

A spokesman for Sandals, the leading all-inclusive group, said there was no evidence to suggest that alcohol consumption was as high as was indicated.

Airtours said: "There is some onus on the individual to decide how much they should eat, how long to stay in the sun and how much to drink."

Sunset Holidays, which carried out the survey of tourists and hoteliers, insisted: "We do not recommend or encourage anyone to drink to the point where they endanger their own health."

Restaurants ban smoking

SMOKERS are finding it increasingly difficult to book a restaurant or hotel that is prepared to accept them and their habit, according to the British Hospitality Association, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

More than half the 700 hotels surveyed by the association said that they no longer allowed smoking in their restaurants and a further 30 per cent ban smoking in part of their restaurant. Nearly half offer non-smoking bedrooms. Only two hotels said that the restrictions had affected business adversely and 16 per cent said it had made business better.

Jeremy Logie, the chief executive of the BHA, the body that represents the hotel, catering and restaurant industry, says: "It is clear the industry recognises that smoking in restaurants and other public places has become a very pressing issue. Most members regard the trend towards a total restriction on smoking, or at least providing a non-smoking area in restaurants, as inexorable."

A growing number of hotels are even banning smoking in the lounge or bar. But some hoteliers now believe that the clampdown on smoking may have gone too far and are seeking ways of enabling smokers and non-smokers to live and eat in harmony. Most believe that the industry should regulate itself rather than wait for the Government to pass draconian legislation which, according to one member who replied to the survey, would be "the nanny police state gone mad".

Mr Logie says: "Adequate ventilation will also provide a smoke-free atmosphere; where there is good ventilation, a restriction on smoking may not be necessary. It is good for business to provide an environment that pleases all guests. Most hotels appear to have taken the view that a restriction on smoking is the way forward, but if there is adequate ventilation, non-smoking guests need not be troubled by smoking at all. It is a matter of trying to find the best solution to a sensitive problem."

● The tourism industry could generate 310,000 new jobs within the next ten years as investment in leisure facilities soars by more than 32 per cent, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council.

Sir Colin Marshall, the council's vice-chairman said: "Travel and tourism is a key to future economic growth. The forecasts demonstrate that the industry is a vitally important part of the UK economy and will become even more central to broad economic policies relating to trade and infrastructure investment over the next ten years."

Adventure specialists widen their horizons

By Tony Dawe

CAVORTING with hundreds of killer whales in a Norwegian fiord, searching for cheetahs in an African game park and exploring the wildlife of the Amazon rainforests are among the widest-ever range of nature tours being offered to British holidaymakers next year.

The latest brochures from companies including Naturetrek and Discover the World feature new activities, both peaceful and energetic, in new destinations.

To mark its tenth anniversary next year, Naturetrek is offering tours to 46 countries, from Alaska to Zimbabwe.

Many operators are offering discounts for bookings before the end of this year with Encounter Overland promising savings of about £100 on tours to Central and South America.

The demand for more unusual nature holidays reflects the growing trend among Britons to forgo the traditional sun, sand and sea packages, and is overtaking interest in simple adventure trips. Companies such as Earthwatch, which offer the chance to participate in environmental and ecological projects, also report a rise in demand.

David Mills, who runs Naturetrek, says: "We now offer a choice of more than a hundred different birdwatching, botanical and natural-history departures. These include spring tours to southern Portugal, an Easter break in search of owls in Finland and a winter week in Jordan."

A botanical tour of South Africa's Cape and Namaqualand region at the height of the floral season and a trek across China and Tibet in search of giant pandas and other rare creatures are featured in the new brochure, alongside more familiar holidays to African game parks and the Kanha tiger reserve in India.

Prices range from £1,400 to £4,000 a person and European trips cost from £890. Each tour is led by an expert ornithologist or botanist — sometimes both — and group sizes are small, between six and 16. The company is offering discounts to regular customers.

The new brochure from Discover the World also features a wide range of escorted group tours, including a weekend with killer whales in Norway and a week following wolves through Quebec's spectacular Jacques-Cartier park.

For the less adventurous, the company offers a choice of three independent short breaks exploring the French Pyrenees, Spain's Picos de Europe and the Abruzzo national park in Italy. Flights, car hire and accommodation can be arranged and prices start from £323 a person.

Among early booking savings offered by Encounter Overland are £100 off a three-week expedition through Mexico, Belize and Guatemala and a similar discount on three-week tours of Bolivia which take in 15,000ft mountains and steamy jungles. The discounted prices are £1,050 and £1,160 a person, excluding flights.

● *Naturetrek 01962 733051, Discover the World 01737 218809; Encounter Overland 0171-370 6951*

BBCTV

British tourists are giving up sun-and-sand holidays and going in search of the wild

Historic sites open on New Year's Day

FIFTY of Britain's most historic sites and homes, including Stonehenge, Whitby Abbey and Dover Castle, will open for the first time on New Year's Day. English Heritage, which runs the sites, has decided that visitors should no longer be denied the chance of seeing them on one of the most popular days for outings.

The list includes the dramatic ruins of Tintagel Castle, Cornwall, the small fortified Tudor manor of Stokesay Castle, Shropshire, and the superb Roman villa at Lullingstone in Kent.

In London, several of the capital's best-known houses will open for the first time, including Kenwood on Hampstead Heath, and the Ranger's House, Blackheath. Most of the properties will open from 10am or noon until 4pm.

Head start

THE curiously named Hangover Cottage in Burnham Overy Staithe, Norfolk, is still available for rent for £298 for new year's week — December 28 until January 4.

The five-bed cottage is one of the 4,000 properties on the books of Country Holidays (01282-445095), many of which are still available for a Christmas or new year break.

City success

THE spectacular growth of London City Airport shows no sign of abating. The Italian business airline AzzurrAir is the latest to fly in, with a new twice-daily service to Bergamo in northern Italy.

The number of passengers using the Docklands airport rose by 56 per cent in November to reach a record 81,566.

Richard Gooding, the managing director, says the airport, once aviation's biggest white elephant, is now Europe's fastest-growing airport.

Ride the Nile

MENCAP is organising a fundraising holiday in March, which involves a 500km ride along the Nile from Luxor to Aswan and back in five days.

All flights, food, accommodation on board a Nile cruiser and mountain bikes will be provided but participants will be charged a £200 registration fee and will be expected to raise a minimum of £1,750 in sponsorship money for the charity's Blue Sky appeal.

Fair-weather golf deal

By David Churchill

TURNBERRY, the Scottish golfing hotel, is offering to refund the cost of accommodation and dinner for guests if bad weather means they cannot play on the hotel's Ailsa golf course.

The guarantee, available until the end of February for guests staying on a special weekend package, is aimed at easing fears for first time golfers that the Scottish weather often prevents play. Guests have to book at least 48 hours in advance to take advantage of the deal.

"Because of the warm Gulf Stream air, we are rarely in a position where the golf course is closed," says Christopher Rouse, general manager of Turnberry, who yesterday was named Hotelier of the Year by *Caterer & Hotelkeeper* magazine. Mr Rouse, 55, has been with Japanese-owned Turnberry since the late Seventies, but has also worked at Scotland's other two great golfing hotels — Gleneagles and the Old Course Hotel, St Andrew's.

Jonathan Thornton, managing director of the Old Course Hotel, claims that his guests also have a good chance of play during the winter. "The advantage of a links course, and we have five surrounding the hotel, is that it is generally playable all year round," he says. The sand base for a links course, as well as the drying sea winds, ensures good drainage.

Both hotels are also benefiting from a booming demand for golfing holidays. "There is a lot of exposure on television and we are finding that a large element of demand comes from beginners or those with little golfing experience," says Mr Rouse. About a third of Turnberry's guests come from America, although 40 per cent are from Britain.

Britain's biggest golfing hotel operator is the Marriott chain, part of Whitbread Hotels, which has seven hotels and country clubs with 11 golf courses between them, four to European Tour standard.

Hotelier of the Year Christopher Rouse, of Turnberry

Air miles schemes 'distort the market'

By Harvey Elliott

NEIL KINNOCK, the European Transport Commissioner, will be told next week that airline loyalty schemes — regarded as an important perk enabling millions of business travellers to qualify for free leisure flights — are an unfair distortion of competition.

The campaign to abolish frequent-flyer benefit schemes is to be taken to Brussels as pressure mounts for individual travellers to be forced to hand their accumulated points to employers or for tax to be made payable on the benefits. It is calculated that frequent-flyer programmes now cost airlines so much to administer that air fares could be reduced by up to 10 per cent if they did not exist.

Stelios Haji-Ioannou, owner of the rapidly expanding cut-price airline EasyJet, will tell Mr Kinnock that bigger airlines are able to operate complex loyalty programmes aimed at individual travellers while smaller airlines offer lower fares but cannot afford to offer similar schemes.

He says: "The frequent-flyer programmes are actually an incentive to spend more while the company which employs the traveller may be trying to cut costs. We have to raise awareness of what is happening, to explain to companies how they are losing money and, if possible, to have the schemes banned."

Many large British companies already try to persuade employees to hand over the benefits rather than use them themselves.

Kevin Watts, the secretary of the Business Travel Liaison Group, which represents 25 of the biggest companies, says: "For those in the public sector, there is a very real moral problem in accepting incentive schemes."

Mr Watts, who also works for the British Council, says that although ministers and civil servants are forbidden from accruing the "miles" while on business, many large companies regard the benefits as a way of keeping staff happy. He says: "We hope the authorities will become involved and tax the vouchers even before they are redeemed. If it becomes a taxable benefit, the bubble will quickly burst."

Steve Keenan on the competition between tunnel and ferries

Le Shuttle restarts Channel rivalry

COMPETITION for the Christmas shopping rush to France intensified this week as Channel Tunnel shuttles restarted service three weeks after the blaze.

The tunnel is trying to win back customers lost to ferry rivals in the lucrative pre-Christmas rush and Le Shuttle has reopened 24-hour duty and tax-free shops at its terminals. But Le Shuttle, while busy yesterday, is able to run at only half its normal capacity with three trains every two hours. Two an hour will operate from December 30.

The resumption of cross-Channel competition coincides with ferry rivals P&O and Stena rethinking strategy after the surprise referral of their proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

While an MMC decision is due on March 6, the two companies have been forced to reconsider plans and will publish separate brochures for next year within the next two weeks.

P&O and Brittany have also scrapped plans to merge on western Channel routes for next year because of the MMC referral, leaving Brittany free to be first to publish next year's fares this week.

But the twists in the future of cross-Channel travel have been put aside temporarily as Le Shuttle slowly tries to build up custom and services over Christmas.

The company has scrapped its turn-up-and-go service, demanding that customers make reservations. Those already holding tickets must also call Le Shuttle Call Centre (0990 353535) for a new ticket stipulating time and date of departure. But it has not dropped prices, with brochure fares still applying. A standard return costs £129 for daytime departures, a five-day ticket £69 and a day trip £59. Departures between 10pm and 6am range between £10 to £20 cheaper.

The day trip prices are virtually treble those of P&O, Hoverspeed and Stena and six times that of Sea France, the rival on the Dover/Folkestone to Calais route. Le Shuttle is also missing out on the Christmas coach market, with services not expected to resume until early next month.

When releasing fares for next year Brittany Ferries' operations director David Longden said 16 million people made return journeys across the Channel this year, with a quarter travelling through the tunnel. Anticipating the green light by the MMC for a P&O/Stena merger — with conditions — he said the move would help to remove the one-third excess ferry capacity he believed was still on the Channel.

Brittany has reduced prices by 10 per cent for next year on its four western Channel routes. "Add inflation of three per cent, so in real terms prices are 13 per cent cheaper than this year," Mr Longden said.

Merger talks between Brittany and P&O lasted three months. But differences in culture, coupled with the MMC referral on a Stena/P&O merger, have scuppered any deal for next year.

"The basic principles of a deal remain but the timing has slowed down. At the moment we are working independently," Ian Carruthurs, Brittany's managing director, said.

Cities unite in tourism drive

By Tony Dawe

THE battle to persuade tourists that cities such as Derby, Leeds and Stoke-on-Trent are attractive destinations for short-break holidays will be intensified at a meeting of travel bosses next week.

Their aim is to spread the message to 500,000 people in Britain that a group of 11 unfashionable cities are full of famous museums, historic sites and pleasant shops and can offer bargain deals in a wide range of hotels.

Derby's Georgian gems and breathtaking cathedral, the new Royal Armouries Museum and well-known shops in Leeds and the pottery museums, shops and tours in the five towns that comprise Stoke are some of the assets to be highlighted.

"The one thing they all suffer from is not being taken seriously as tourist cities, but visitors would not believe how much there is to do," says Steve Jardine, one of the marketing men behind the Great British Cities consortium.

It has produced a 36-page brochure listing the attractions and hotel deals — with savings of up to 70 per cent — available this winter. At Tuesday's meeting their tourism officials will discuss a simpler brochure, which can be targeted at a wider audience.

"People want more information on fewer cities, so we plan to streamline the system to catch people's attention and then feed them regularly updated details on the places which most interest them," Mr Jardine says.

All the cities boast plenty of accommodation from top hotels to comfortable B&B properties, which are kept busy for much of the year with conferences, business people and summer visitors. In Stoke, for example, many rooms are taken from spring to late autumn by families visiting Alton Towers.

"When the theme park closes, the hotels and the city become quieter," says Jane Randall, Stoke's tourism officer. "But the rest of our attractions stay open and are more comfortable to visit."

The group of cities includes three in Scotland — Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow. "Instead of continuing to promote themselves individually, the cities have joined forces to give them more teeth in a competitive market," says Ian Weightman, spokesman for the consortium. "London is very powerful but, by pooling their efforts, these cities can lobby with a stronger voice."

هكذا من الاصل

The noise of discontent

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

WHY IS the world's biggest industry so deeply unpopular? Why do those who travel either for commercial or leisure reasons hate almost everything to do with the whole business? And why do those whose livelihood depends on the tourism industry so despise it?

Business travellers complain about the higher prices. Package tourists hate having other people around to share their holiday resort. Everyone who uses a hub airport moans about the queues to check in, the boredom of the final departure lounge, the vast shopping areas and the long walks to the gate.

Residents of pretty villages, seaside resorts, country towns and historic cities grumble about the floods of tourists who trample over "their" lands. And the millions who live anywhere near a flight path are incandescent with rage that their sleep is disturbed by the ever-growing number of aircraft.

It is a paradox that those who grumble the most are also often first to complain if they cannot get their favourite business-class seat, are asked to pay more for an unspoilt resort, forced to use a regional airport, lose income when tourists do not come, and cannot fly from where they like, to where they want, when they need to go.

Despite all the public relations work by airlines and the travel industry, the industry is still regarded as the villain — especially since the airlines launched their legal battle over government plans to curb airport noise.

However strong and logical the arguments of people in the industry, their critics already command the high ground. By portraying themselves as innocents being battered nightly by the rapacious airlines, the objectors are bound to win the emotional, if not the legal, battle.

Confident anti-noise protesters, such as Dermot Cox, say that "they will learn eventually that they have to work with local communities rather than confront them at every turn".

Last summer the Department of Transport issued new rules that would have cut by three decibels the amount of permitted noise made by aircraft on take-off from the three main London airports. At first sight, this may not seem much, but it means that even British Airways may have to get rid of its 14 remaining Boeing 747-100 jumbo jets.

The noise protesters wanted more. But despite the certain knowledge that public opinion was automatically going to be ranged on the side of the little person trying to get some sleep while airlines hurled ever increasing numbers of nerve-shattering aircraft above his or her head, IATA decided to take their case to court. The new noise limits, originally due to come in on January 1 but now delayed until after a judicial review, would have meant that hundreds of aircraft could not have taken off from Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted without first offloading cargo, fuel or passengers. The world's airlines say they were in the middle of international negotiations to reduce noise. Yet suddenly the British Government decided on a unilateral move that might not, the airlines protest, have had any noticeable effect on the local communities anyway.

AVIATION is an international business and must surely be subject to international rules. Yet the many millions living near big airports must have a right to undisturbed sleep.

The Government knew it could rely on automatic public support for any move which appeared to get tough with airlines. The fact that it may have acted illegally or even irrationally in doing so is an argument which no public relations executive would relish being asked to adduce.

Over to the judges.

Bargains of the week — dog-sledge rides in Finland to José Carreras in Milan

[illegible]

LAS VEGAS for a week's Unijet fly-drive holiday for £179 a person from Co-op Travelcare. Departure is from Gatwick on Monday. Details: 0161-827 1030.

■ ESCAPE the pre-Christmas rush by spending four nights in Istanbul for £195 a person with Accommodation Overseas. Flights from Gatwick and Manchester on December 18. Details: 0181-977 2984.

■ HUSKY-DOG sledge rides and fishing through a hole in the ice are included in Aeroscope's holiday from December 19 to 23 in Karelia, Finland. Accommodation is in cottages on the shores of Lake Pielinen. Prices are £599 adult and £399 child. Details: 01608 650103.

■ SKIING bargains are available from Neilson Ski. Prices from £199 for a week's self-catering in Brides-les-Baines, France, flying from Manchester on December 21, to £329 for a week's half-board at Pas de la Casa, Andorra, flying from Birmingham. Details: 0113-239 4555.

■ PICASSO and the portrait exhibition in Paris are included in weekend breaks from Cox & Kings. The £218-a-person price includes BA flights, tickets to the exhibition and bed and breakfast. Details: 0171-873 5000.

■ TOURS of remote Thailand over Christmas are available from Explore Worldwide. A 17-day trekking holiday costs £580 and 16 days exploring temples, river travel and the jungle costs £660. Both leave Bangkok on December 21; flights extra. Details: 01252 319448.

■ MADEIRA for Christmas is available at a saving of £130 a person from Cadogan Holidays with an eight-night bed and breakfast holiday at a four-star hotel now costing £499. Details: 01703 332661.

■ SAVINGS of £290 for a fortnight's half-board at Africana Sea Lodge, Mombasa, with flights from Gatwick and Manchester on December 29. The new price from Tropical Places is £769 a person. Details: 01342 825123.

■ NEW YEAR's Day bargains to Cyprus from Portland Direct with a fortnight's self-catering from £165. Flights from Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester. Details: 0990 002200.

■ FUERTEVENTURA from £191 for a week's self-catering with flights from Gatwick and Manchester on January 8 and 15 from Inspirations. Details: 01293 822244.

■ JOSE CARRERAS at La Scala, Milan, is featured in a three-night break from JMB Travel for £619 from January 11. Flights from Heathrow and bed and breakfast in a three-star hotel. Details: 01905 425628.

■ NILE and beyond 15-day tour leaving Heathrow on January 12 is available for £650 from Guerba Expeditions. Journey through Egypt with a camel safari, hotel for three nights and camp the rest. Details: 01373 826611.

GEORGE HERRINGSHAW

The most exciting gambling city in the world. Las Vegas: £179 for a week's fly-drive

FLIGHTS

AIR UK has the ultimate seat sale. Between January 6 and March 31, it is charging a flat fare of £35 single from London to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Rotterdam, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness or Newcastle. A fare of £49 single applies from London to Copenhagen, Düsseldorf, Florence, Hamburg, Milan, Munich and Zürich. Book 14 days ahead and no later than January 22. Details: 0345 666777.

■ THE RIPOSTE from Luton-based Debonair is a "two's company" fare for passengers travelling between today and December 18 and January 8 and February 28. A passenger flying return to Rome, Barcelona, Madrid, Copenhagen, Düsseldorf and Munich can take along a companion for a flat £50. Book before Saturday. Details: 0500 146200.

■ LUPUS Travel has fares to South Africa, Asia and Latin America flying Alitalia from January 1. Typical fares are £492 for Johannesburg, £540 for Hong Kong, £524 for Rio de Janeiro and £601 Buenos Aires. Details: 0171-306 3000.

■ EMIRATES Air, based in Dubai, has extended its free ticket offer to include most of its destinations. Business-class passengers flying to the Gulf, Africa, Asia and Australia receive a free and transferable economy-class ticket for use at a later date. Details: 0171-808 0808.

■ FETC has big savings on direct scheduled flights to Singapore with return tickets from London or Manchester costing £384 and £454 respectively. Details: 0171-414 8808.

FERRIES

A THREE-NIGHT minicruise with Brittany Ferries to Santander in northern Spain is available, departing Plymouth on December 24 and December 31. Priced from £89. Details: Cruise World 01902 847800.

■ A POST-CHRISTMAS break is available through Scandinavian Seaways. Two nights on board a ferry departing Harwich, and two nights on shore in Copenhagen, will cost from £173 a person for departures on December 27 and 29. Details: 0990 333111.

■ RED FUNNEL has launched its new holiday programme, offering two nights' bed and breakfast on the Isle of Wight from £42 a person, including return ferry from Southampton to Cowes. The offer is based on two people travelling. Details: 01703 333811.

■ SWANSEA Cork Ferries has launched its 1997 fares brochure. Crossings cost from £99 one-way for a car and up to five passengers in low season to £185 in peak. A midweek fare, Mondays to Thursdays, returning the same day, costs from £155 return. Details: 01792 456116.

■ SEA FRANCE has a ski ferry package to include Dover-Calais crossing, winter sports insurance and motoring breakdown service. A six-day ticket costs £90, nine days £135 and 17 days £145 for a car plus two passengers. Valid until April 30. Details: 0990 711711.

■ BRITTANY FERRIES has introduced three new price bands for next year. Sample prices: Portsmouth-Caen in May £240, in August £260, for a car and two adults. Details: 0990 360360

HOTELS

FOUR nights for the price of three is on offer from Hilton National until the end of February. Prices range from £76 to £144 a person for a four-night stay and include buffet breakfast. Details: 0800 856 8000.

■ UNLIMITED golf is available on the two 18-hole courses at the Five Lakes hotel and country club near Maldon in Essex over Christmas and the new year. The four-night package costs from £370 a person full board, with children sharing their parents' room at a rate of £180 a child. Details: 01621 868 888.

■ A CUT-PRICE romantic package is offered by the Horsted Place country house hotel, near Uckfield, East Sussex. For £150 a couple, subject to availability, the price includes champagne on arrival, dinner and breakfast. Details: 01825 750581.

■ BROWN'S Hotel in London is offering 30 per cent discounts from January 1 until February 28. Prices from £158 a night for a single room and £175 a night for a double, and there are also special shopping privileges at local shops. Details: 0171-493 6020.

■ A DOUBLE room at the Hyde Park Hotel in London's Knightsbridge, opposite Harvey Nichols, costs £190 a night, plus VAT, from Sunday until January 4. Details: 0171-235 2000.

■ THE SAVOY Group's London restaurants have a special £9-a-head menu from January 2 to 31. The Brasserie St Quentin, the Grill St Quentin and Simpson's-in-the-Strand are offering a two-course lunch or dinner. Details: Brasserie, 0171-589 8005; Grill, 0171-581 8377; Simpson's, 0171-836 9112.

■ THE CLARENCE Hotel in Dublin has a two-night winter break until March 31 at IR£149 a person, available either midweek or at weekends. Details: 00 3531 6709000.

■ THE LIBERTEL Group of 28 Paris hotels, all either two or three-star properties, has cut winter rates by 20 per cent on average, with prices from Fr350 to Fr730 a room a night. Details: 0800 895 950.

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■ SUMMIT International Hotels is offering discounts of up to 55 per cent off normal rates at its 85-member hotels until February 28. Rates include £99 a night at London's Lancaster Hotel and include room upgrade and restaurant discounts. Details: 0800 556555.

■ THE SHERATON Grand Hotel, in Edinburgh, is offering three nights for £140 a person based on double occupancy until March 31. The hotel restaurant also has a special rate of £12.50 a person for two courses. Details: 0800 353535.

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Law Report December 12 1996 Court of Appeal

Admission of spent convictions at judge's discretion in civil trial

Thomas v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment November 28]

Spent convictions should be admitted as evidence in a civil trial at the judge's discretion pursuant to section 7(3) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 when credit was in issue and the convictions were relevant to credit.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment on an appeal by Gabriel Thomas against the order of Sir Michael Davies sitting as a judge of the High Court made on March 8, 1995.

Section 4 of the 1974 Act provides:

"(1) Subject to section 7 and 8 below, a person who has become a rehabilitated person for the purposes of this Act in respect of a conviction shall be treated for all purposes in law as a person who has not committed or been charged with or prosecuted for or convicted of or sentenced for the offence or offences which were the subject of that conviction; and, notwithstanding the provisions or any other enactment or rule of law to the contrary, but subject as aforesaid — (a) no evidence shall be admissible in any proceedings before a judicial authority exercising its jurisdiction or function in Great Britain to prove that any such person has committed or been charged with or prosecuted for or convicted of or sentenced for any offence which was the subject of a spent conviction. . ."

Section 7 provides: "(3) If at any stage in any proceedings before a judicial authority in Great Britain . . . the authority is satisfied, in the light of any considerations which appear to it to be relevant . . . that justice cannot be done in the case except by admitting or requiring evidence relating to a person's spent convictions . . . that authority may admit . . . the evidence in question notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of section 4 above. . ."

Lord Gifford, QC and Mr Paul Kishore for the plaintiff; Mr Jonathan Loades for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the plaintiff was a limbo dancer who had been giving a charity performance at the London Arena in Docklands. After the performance, at 2.00am on May 28, 1990, as he left the stage door, he was arrested by two police officers for threatening behaviour.

The plaintiff's version of the incident was that he was made the object of abusive and racist remarks, brutally manhandled and arrested without lawful cause. The police denied the allegations and that they used excessive force in effecting the arrest.

The plaintiff was tried for the offence of threatening behaviour on November 27, 1990 at Thames Magistrates Court and acquitted. Since then, as a result of the injuries he had sustained during the arrest he had suffered pain and been unable to perform as a limbo dancer and was not likely to be able to do so in the future.

On March 23, 1993 he commenced proceedings in the High Court against the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. He claimed damages for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. Exemplary damages were claimed.

The plaintiff's action against the commissioner came on for trial before Sir Michael Davies and a jury in February 1995. It was a case in which the credibility of the plaintiff on the one hand and the two police officers on the other hand would be crucial.

The plaintiff had two previous convictions which were spent convictions under the 1974 Act. One was for unlawful wounding in 1980 to which he had pleaded guilty and for which he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment suspended for two years. One was for criminal damage for which he was fined £50 and ordered to pay £24.71 compensation.

The judge allowed cross-examination of the plaintiff on the two convictions He said that the plaintiff gave the impression "of being a man quiet spoken, apparently sincere, well educated and generally in every way an upright citizen. Now, that is a matter of his credit, and it does seem to me that, if these convictions are not admitted, the jury will be left in the situation in which they may have what in the result is an impression of him and his reliability and credibility which may not be totally accurate and fair."

In his summing up the judge warned the jury that the convictions went only to credit and not to propensity.

The jury found for the plaintiff on his claim for assault. In other words they preferred his evidence to the police officers as to the extent of force and violence used in arresting him.

But on the claims for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution they found for the commissioner. In other words they accepted that the police officers believed that the plaintiff was behaving in a threatening manner.

On the assault claim the jury awarded the plaintiff £15,815 general damages and £16,185 special damages. The total awarded sum was, however, less than the amount of a sum that had been paid into court.

The consequence was that the plaintiff obtained an order for costs up to February 3, 1995 but had to pay, or allow to be set-off, the commissioner's costs from February 3.

The notice of appeal sought an order for a new trial both on liability and on damages. The grounds of appeal were (i) that the judge erred in law in allowing the plaintiff to be cross-examined on his spent convictions; and (ii) that the general damages award of £15,815 was manifestly inadequate and/or impossible to reconcile with the special damages award of £16,185.

First, the court had to be persuaded that the judge erred in law in ruling that the spent convictions could be put to the plaintiff. Second, it had to be of the opinion that some substantial wrong or miscarriage had been thereby occasioned: see Order 59, rule 11(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The reason why the offences were allowed in by the judge was, as appeared from both his rulings, that the plaintiff appeared to be well spoken and respectable and the judge seemed to have thought that that appearance was, in view of the convictions, a possible misrepresentation.

His Lordship was of the clear opinion that that could not be enough to satisfy the statutory criterion. The plaintiff's convictions and their circumstances were not suggested to be probative of any issue in the case.

They were not suggested to be relevant to his credibility in the sense that they showed him to be a man who had previously lied in giving sworn testimony or to be a man who had dishonest tendencies. In what sense then could it be said that the convictions were relevant to credit?

His Lordship did not see what answer could be given unless it be said that the status of an individual was relevant to his credit and that a person who had suffered a spent conviction in the past was not entitled to present himself as a respectable upright citizen. That was an answer which he would have no hesitation in rejecting.

In his February 27 ruling the judge expressly disavowed any reliance on the practice in criminal cases and in particular cases on section 1(f) of the Criminal Evidence Act 1898. He was right to do so.

Nevertheless his Lordship had an uneasy suspicion that the approach adopted by the judge in the present case might have had its origin in the approach that would have been adopted in a criminal case.

There was no doubt but that the present case entailed, necessarily, a serious attack on the characters of the police officers involved in the incident. If the present case had been a criminal case with the plaintiff as the accused, section 1(f)(ii) would, subject to the trial judge's discretion to exclude, have permitted the plaintiff's spent convictions to be put to him on credit.

But the approach established in criminal cases was not, in his Lordship's judgment, an appropriate approach in civil cases. In civil cases, unlike criminal cases, section 4(1) of the 1974 Act applied.

Section 4(1), subject to the section 7(1) exceptions, was intended to allow an individual whose convictions were spent to present himself as a person of good character. It could not be a sufficient reason for holding the section 7(3) test to be satisfied that the individual was so presenting himself.

In a civil case in which spent convictions had no probative value on any issue in the case and did not provide any rational support for a suggestion that the individual might not be telling, or might not have told, the truth on one or other issue in the case, the fact that the individual's evidence or the nature of the case sued on involved imputations on the character of the other party or other witnesses in the case did not, justify admitting the spent convictions into evidence.

That fact did not meet the test that "justice cannot be done except. . " by admitting the evidence. The judge's ruling whereby the spent convictions were allowed to be put to the plaintiff was based on an error in law.

There were no circumstances in the case which could have enabled the judge to be satisfied that justice could not be done unless the spent convictions were admitted. On that point the appeal was entitled to succeed.

However, in his Lordship's judgment, there should not be a new trial as the plaintiff's credit did not suffer from the jury's knowledge of the spent convictions. He did not believe that they made any difference to the result of the case.

He thought the judge was wrong to let them in but was not persuaded that any substantial wrong or miscarriage of justice was thereby occasioned. He would refuse the request for a new trial.

Further, he held that as there was no fault in the judge's summing-up on damages it was not a case in which the court would be justified in interfering with the jury's damages award. It followed that the appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, concurring in the result, said that until 1974 there was little restriction, if any, on the right to cross-examine a witness in civil proceedings as to his or her previous convictions.

It was commonly accepted that such convictions could affect the creditworthiness of the witness, even when, as was often the case, the convictions themselves and the circumstances which gave rise to them had no direct relevance to any issue before the court.

In a jury trial, the judge would be reluctant to exclude evidence which a reasonable jury could take into account when deciding where the truth lay. So the scope for judicial intervention was limited.

The 1974 Act introduced the concept of spent convictions. Since section 4(1) was expressly made subject to section 7(3) the trial judge had a discretionary power to allow the previous conviction of a party to be adduced in evidence whenever the interests of justice so required.

In the context of civil proceedings, that meant taking account of the interest of both parties, and justice required that there should be a fair trial between them. That marked a clear distinction from criminal cases, where the interests of the accused tended to be pre-eminent.

But it was in criminal cases that the concepts of relevance and admissibility of such evidence had been most often considered. His Lordship summarised the criminal authorities and held that although it was necessary to allow for the fact that in criminal cases the circumstances were different, those authorities were relevant to the exercise of the judge's discretion in civil cases to permit the introduction of spent convictions under section 7(3).

Given that previous convictions could sometimes be relevant to credit it followed that in such cases the interests of justice required that such evidence should be admitted before the jury, rather than withheld from it, when credit was in issue.

The interests of justice were synonymous with a search for the truth, and the judge had to recognise that a reasonable jury might take a wide range of factors into account when deciding which witnesses to believe and therefore where the truth lay.

The judge decided that it was necessary in the interests of justice that the jury should have a full picture of the plaintiff and his past history, not limited by his deemed good character under section 4(1) of the Act. It could not be said, in his Lordship's judgment, that that was not a valid exercise of his discretion under section 7(3).

He would dismiss the appeal on liability. He also agreed entirely with the Vice-Chancellor's reasons for refusing a new trial, even if the cross-examination on previous convictions was wrongly permitted, and for not interfering with the award of damages.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE, concurring in the result, said that the judge was only wrong to admit the evidence of the spent convictions on the issue of credibility if the evidence had so little relevance that its exclusion from the trial could not properly have made any material difference to the outcome.

If the evidence could properly have made a material difference, then it seemed to his Lordship self-evident that justice indicated that it should not be excluded.

Furthermore, the fact that the jury decided in favour of the plaintiff on the issue of assault, where his credibility as opposed to that of the police officers was all-important indicated that the jury accepted his evidence.

He was therefore not persuaded that there had been any miscarriage of justice and would accordingly dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Harris & Co, Southwark; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Notice to quit not validly served

Enfield London Borough Council v Devonish and Another

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment November 27]

Section 233 of the Local Government Act 1972 did not authorise a local authority to serve a notice to quit by delivering it to the tenant's last known address. Therefore, in the absence of express provision for such a method of service in the tenancy agreement, the notice had not been validly served.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the second defendant, Myra Sutton, against the decision of Judge Tibber at Edmonton County Court on November 6, 1995 granting the plaintiff landlords, Enfield London Borough Council, an order for possession of the flat that she occupied. The first defendant, David Devonish, the tenant, did not appeal.

Section 233 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides:

"(1) . . . subsections (2) to (5) below shall have effect in relation to any notice . . . required or authorised by or under any enactment to be given to or served on any person by or on behalf of a local authority. . .

"(2) Any such document may be given to or served on the person in question either by delivering it to him, or by leaving it at his proper address. . .

"(4) . . . the proper address of any person to or on whom a document is to be given or served shall be his last known address. . ."

Mr Jan Luba for the occupier; Mr Bryan McGuire for the council.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that the appeal related to whether the council had taken proper steps to terminate the tenancy of the first defendant. In June 1994 the council's estate officer had gone to the flat and left a written notice to quit addressed to the first defendant, who, as the council by then knew, was no longer living at the flat.

At common law the tenancy was determinable if the council gave appropriate written notice to quit, but to be effective the service of such notice had to be personal, or the council had to be able to prove, which it could not, that the notice left at the property came into the hands of the tenant, his wife or his servant.

There were, however, two statutory provisions which the council relied on which stated that in certain circumstances the service of a notice to quit could be effective where the notice was left at the premises to which it related, even though it could not be shown to have come to the notice of the tenant.

In his Lordship's judgment, the council could not rely on section 196 of the Law of Property Act 1925 because the notice to quit was not a notice required or authorised to be given by the 1925 Act (see *Wandsworth London Borough Council v Atwell* ((1995) 94 LGR 419)) nor was it a notice required to be served by any instrument as, on the facts, the council's usual written conditions of tenancy had not been incorporated into the tenancy agreement.

The second statutory provision on which the council relied was section 233 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The council pointed out that when its agent purported to serve the notice to quit that was something which it, as a local authority, was empowered to do by section 111 of the 1972 Act, which provided that a local authority had power to do anything which was calculated to facilitate, or was conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions. One of the functions of a local authority was, of course, to manage its housing stock.

In his Lordship's judgment, section 233 could not assist the council because the notice to quit was not required or authorised to be given "by or under any enactment".

It was required to be given at common law by the landlord if the tenancy was to be determined, and it was of no consequence that because the council happened to be a local authority it was therefore a creature of statute authorised by section to act, inter alia, as landlord.

Many statutes and statutory instruments did specifically require or authorise a local authority, or one of its officers, to give some form of notice, and section 233 was intended to assist local authorities to give notices in such cases, but not to relieve a local authority of obligations which fell on every other landlord, including, for example, a housing association.

Indeed, if the council's arguments were right it could place a local authority in an advantageous position in relation to many ordinary commercial activities undertaken by local authorities, such as exercising an option to purchase or issuing a certificate in relation to a building contract, and it was difficult to believe that section 233 was ever intended to have such a wide ranging effect.

His Lordship did not wish to attach too much weight to textual criticism, but if the intention were as wide as the council suggested, there would be no reason for including the words "by or under any enactment" in section 233(1).

His Lordship knew that that conclusion would disappoint the council as landlord, and it might be that consideration should be given to the possibility of at least some landlords, such as local authorities and housing associations, having special statutory authority to serve a notice to quit by sending such a notice to the relevant property if that was the last known address of the tenant.

Lord Justice Potter agreed.

Solicitors: J. D. Spicer & Co, Edmonton; Mr Gordon F. Smith, Enfield.

Exceptional to make costs order against liquidator

Metalloy Supplies Ltd (in liquidation) v MA (UK) Ltd

While there was jurisdiction to order a liquidator as a non-party to proceedings brought by the company in liquidation to pay costs personally, it was only in exceptional circumstances in which there had been impropriety on the part of the liquidator that such an order should be made.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Waller) so held on October 7 in allowing an appeal against an order of Judge Hutton, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, that the liquidator of the plaintiff company, Metalloy Supplies Ltd, pay some of the costs of an action against MA (UK) Ltd personally.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that the public interest in relation to liquidators demanded that they should not be exposed to personal liability for costs simply where they acted for insolvent companies.

While there was a jurisdiction to order a liquidator, as a non-party, to pay the costs personally it would only be in exceptional cases that the jurisdiction would be exercised, and impropriety would be a necessary ingredient, particularly having regard to the fact that the normal remedy of obtaining an order for security for costs was available to the defendant.

The caution necessary in all cases where an attempt was made to render a non-party liable for costs would be the greater in the case of a liquidator having regard to the public policy considerations.

No duty to keep tribunal up to date

Regina v Special Adjudicator, Ex Parte Gurpreet Singh

Before Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment December 2]

Although special adjudicators hearing asylum-seekers' claims under the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 clearly benefited from being made aware of the flow of decisions in the field and the changes which took place in relation to certain countries, there was no duty on the Home Secretary's representative at a hearing to produce copies of any such decisions to the adjudicator.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application by Gurpreet Singh for leave to appeal from the refusal by Mr Justice Kay on July 31, 1996, of his application for judicial review of a decision by a special adjudicator ordering his removal from the United Kingdom.

Mr Manjit Gill for the applicant; the special adjudicator did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the applicant flew from India to Lisbon where he spent not more than 24 hours in a transit lounge before flying on to London. He had claimed asylum on his arrival at Heathrow.

The special adjudicator dismissed his appeal against a certificate by the Home Secretary pursuant to paragraph 5(3)(a) of Schedule 2 to the 1993 Act to the effect that his claim that his removal from the United Kingdom would be contrary to this country's obligations under the Convention and Protocol relating to Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1967) (Cmnd 3906).

The secretary of state was of the opinion that the applicant was properly returnable to Portugal and that there was no reason to believe that in the circumstances of his case the Portuguese authorities would not comply with all their obligations under the Convention.

The basis for the application was that the adjudicator ought to have been acquainted with the fact that there had been decisions by other special adjudicators to contrary effect. Before the judge it was argued that the secretary of state's representative had a duty to produce at the hearing decisions which had gone against the secretary of state on the question of the safety of Portugal.

It would be wrong to grant leave to appeal on the point of principle that Mr Gill had sought to argue. The adjudicator's decision appeared to have been in no way out of line with the earlier decisions about Portugal.

Parliament had decided in 1993 that the new appellate system should be manned by a quite limited number of special adjudicators who would gain a growing amount of expertise and knowhow in that specialist field.

The more resources which were made available to them to continue to ensure that they were up to date with the flow of decisions in the field and the changes which took place in relation to certain countries, the more effectively they would be able to carry out their difficult duties.

However, it would be an intolerable burden to place on the secretary of state for no very obvious advantage in what was supposed to be a quick procedure to oblige him to refer the special adjudicators to a large number of previous decisions which had gone against the secretary of state in respect of a particular country.

His Lordship said that he wished to reserve for another occasion and on appropriate facts consideration of whether, if there was a decision of an adjudicator on all fours with the facts of the situation which came before another adjudicator on a later occasion and there had been no change in the position, no obvious new evidence as there was in this case, whether in those circumstances there was a duty on the secretary of state's representative to draw that earlier case or cases to the attention of the adjudicator.

Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Jasvir Jutla & Co, Leicester.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BARNES nee BERRY, MATILDA BARNES nee BERRY Widow late of Islington, London N1 died there on 4 February 1994 (Estate about £82,000)

BEARD nee RUMLEY, MELITA BEARD nee RUMLEY Widow late of Clifton, Nottingham died there on 31 October 1996 (Estate about £60,000)

BROOKES, JAMES BROOKES late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 12 December 1995 (Estate about £7,400)

CAINES, SARAH ALICE CAINES Spinster late of North Shields, Tyne and Wear died there on 14 January 1996 (Estate about £5,000)

CAMPBELL, DONALD JOSEPH CAMPBELL late of Grove Park, London SE12 died there on 13 March 1996 (Estate about £35,000)

FIFE, KENNETH JEFFREY FIFE late of St Clements, Jersey, Channel Islands died at Southampton, Hampshire on 18 August 1995 (Estate about £109,000)

FLEMING nee BROOKS, GWENDOLYN ADA FLEMING nee BROOKS Widow late of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands died there on 9 March 1996 (Estate about £35,000)

FRYATT nee DEAN, DOROTHY MAY FRYATT nee DEAN Widow late of Church Stretton, Shropshire died there on 18 April 1996 (Estate about £8,000)

GUNTER nee ELLIS, ETHEL VERA GLADYS GUNTER nee ELLIS Widow late of Sunbury on Thames Middlesex died at Chertsey, Surrey on 30 August 1993 (Estate about £6,600)

HARRISON, PERCIVAL JOHN HARRISON late of Thornaby, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland died at Stockton on Tees, Cleveland on 28 September 1996 (Estate about £30,000)

HART, GEORGE ERNEST HART otherwise GEORGE HART late of Lee, London SE12 died there on 17 July 1996 (Estate about £7,000)

HIRSCHHORN otherwise HERSCHORN otherwise NORMAN, HANNAH QUEENIE HIRSCHHORN otherwise QUEENIE HANNAH HERSCHORN otherwise QUEENIE NORMAN Spinster late of Camden, London NW3 died there on 31 March 1996 (Estate about £12,000)

INGRAM, RALPH EVERETT INGRAM late of Weymouth, Dorset died there on 15 October 1995 (Estate about £150,000)

LYNCH, PATRICK LYNCH late of Penrith, Cumbria died there on 24 June 1996 (Estate about £6,000)

McHUGH, HERBERT McHUGH late of Euston, London WC1 died there on 21 August 1993 (Estate about £6,800)

MITCHELL, GODON FREDRICK ALAN MITCHELL late of Plymouth, Devon died there on or about 30 January 1996 (Estate about £9,000)

MORLEY, EDWARD MORLEY late of Felixstowe, Suffolk died at Ipswich, Suffolk on 10 November 1994 (Estate about £36,000)

OBBARD nee SEGALL, RENEE OBBARD nee SEGALL Widow late of Laverstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire died there on 2 October 1995 (Estate about £50,000)

O'COY nee MILLINGTON LILIAN MAY ROSE O'COY nee MILLINGTON Widow late of Sheldon, Birmingham died at Bordesley Green, Birmingham on 26 January 1996 (Estate about £7,000)

OGILVIE, MARGARET McKNIGHT OGILVIE Spinster late of Hampstead, London NW3 died at Camden, London NW1 on 18 March 1995 (Estate about £18,000)

PALMER, ROBERT RAYMOND SEYMOUR PALMER late of Worthing, West Sussex died there on 16 March 1995 (Estate about £60,000)

PENFOLD, WILLIAM THOMAS PENFOLD otherwise WILLIAM PENFOLD late of Streatham, London SW16 died there on 22 March 1992 (Estate about £5,200)

RATTRAY, AGNES MARSHALL RATTRAY otherwise AGNES RATTRAY Spinster late of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne died there on 8 June 1995 (Estate about £7,500)

REDDISH, WILLIAM REDDISH late of Sale Cheshire died at Wythenshawe, Manchester on 10 February 1996 (Estate about £100,000)

RUDOI, KIRILL RUDOI late of Middleton on Sea, Bognor Regis, West Sussex died there on 9 March 1996 (Estate about £6,500)

SMITH nee HAWTHORNE, MAY HILDA SMITH nee HAWTHORNE Widow late of Barnes, London SW13 died at Putney, London SW15 on 15 July 1996 (Estate about £15,000)

SMULLEN, MARY TERESA SMULLEN otherwise MARIE THERESE SMULLEN otherwise MARIE SMULLEN Spinster late of Romford, Essex died there on 29 August 1996 (Estate about £70,000)

SNEDDON, ROBERT HENDERSON SNEDDON late of Tower Hamlets, London E1 died at Hackney, London E8 on 15 December 1995 (Estate about £36,000)

THOMAS, SIDNEY THOMAS late of Llangennech, Dyfed died there on 10 February 1996 (Estate about £15,000)

WING SING, GEORGE HUBERT WING SING late of West Kensington, London W14 died there on 8 January 1994 (Estate about £20,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estates.

LEGAL NOTICES

STOREMASTER LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on 20th December 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning the Liquidator's remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 6th December 1996

NEIL ANTHONY ROBINSON, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986

SAVOY CHARACTER MERCHANDISING LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 20th December 1996 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated this 6th day of December 1996

By Order of the Board

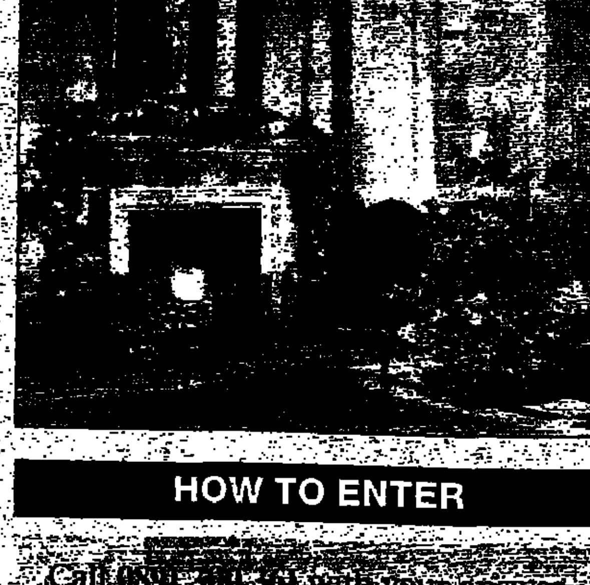
S. McDONALD, Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.



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Continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition, *The Times* brings you the chance to win, not three French hens, but an overnight stay at Claridge's, one of the world's most prestigious hotels plus tickets for one of the West End's top shows.

The three winners and their partners will enjoy a deluxe double room, including continental breakfast served in the restaurant or in your room. The prizes can be taken any Friday or Saturday night between January 1 and March 31, 1997, subject to availability.

They will spend the evening at the recently renovated Savoy Theatre where there is always a hit show, which one will depend on when our winners want to take up their prize.

Claridge's, in the heart of Mayfair, has an illustrious history. Richard D'Oyly Carte bought the hotel in 1894 and his grand piano still graces one of the suites.

During the Second World War the elegant hotel served as a haven for exiled royalty and heads of state, including the monarchs of Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and The Netherlands. At the end of the war, Winston Churchill took a suite at Claridge's while he was temporarily without a home.

Claridge's

HOW TO ENTER

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Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply. Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

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AXA Equity & Law
Abbey National Benefit Consultants Ltd
Able Instruments & Controls Ltd
Acco Europe/Protocol
Acoustafoam Group
Air Movement Design Ltd
Aerospace
Alan Steel (Asset Management) Ltd
Alex Stewart Partnership
Alexander Binzel U K Ltd
Alison Associates
Alliance & Leicester/Giro Bank
Allied Dunbar
Allied Dunbar (West Midland Region)
Allied Dunbar (Yorkshire Region)
Allied Dunbar Assurance (Head Office)
Allied Dunbar Assurance (Swindon)
Allsop Financial Services
Alms & Young
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Alsop Wilkinson
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Avon Insurance
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B H S
B M I The Park Hospital
B P Chemicals
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B R Hodgson Group Limited
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Banque Paribas
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Wooden Spoon Society (Surrey/Sussex)
Wooden Spoon Society - Chilterns Region
Wooden Spoon Society Midlands
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BOXING

Chastened Bowe puts career on line in rematch

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTIC CITY

RIDDICK BOWE has the most important contest of his career here on Saturday. Defeat against Andrew Golota, of Poland, could mean the end for him. If he wins, he could become a leading contender to meet Evander Holyfield and try to reclaim the World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight title.

Golota was about to knock out Bowe when they met last July in New York, but the big man was saved because Golota was disqualified for a low blow. Bowe put that miserable performance — which was followed by a riot in Madison Square Garden — down to being overweight and under-trained. This time, he will have no excuses to fall back on. He says he is fully prepared. He has been training for three months here and has lost 40lb. Now down to 17st, he is believed to be in the best shape ever.

Bowe said that he had waited five months for the chance to redeem himself. "An athlete knows when he's not using his God-given talents to the fullest and I'm well aware that I was not at the top of my game," he said. "It won't ever happen again.

"People said I didn't have the desire to fight, I had lost my skills and would not commit myself to training. Even my mother asked me to hang up the gloves after watching the Golota fight from ringside at the Garden.

"In a sense, my showing against Golota served as a wake-up call — and I heard it loud and clear. Either be 100 per cent or don't bother to step in the ring. I've been training for this fight since September 4 — the longest time I've ever spent preparing for any bout. This means being away from my wife, Judy, and our five children.

"I realise that it's the price I have to pay for the career I've chosen. I know that it will all have been worth it when my hands are raised in victory on December 14."

Bowe certainly looked in excellent shape yesterday in his gymnasium off the Boardwalk, but he did not impress in sparring. Cedric Boswell, a new American heavyweight, who is in the Frank Maloney camp, had no trouble catching Bowe and once even shook him with a jab; but sparring sessions are an unreliable guide.

Bowe's new attitude to training has come about partly because of the shock of Eddie Futch, his veteran trainer, finally leaving him but also because he is concerned about letting down his mother, Dorothy, again.

"When my mother told me Golota kicked my butt, I knew I had to fight him again and get it right," Bowe said.

Bowe, who is No 12 of 13 children, added: "My mom was my boss when I was small and she is still my boss now."

While this may have the ring of the usual "good to his mum" patter, Mackie Shilstone, his conditioner, one of leading experts in sports medicine in the United States, is certain that Dorothy Bowe was the main motivating factor during the three months at Atlantic City.

Shilstone said: "I believe the crossroads argument is second to his restoration with his mother. She is a stronger motivation than boxing. He shamed himself in the eyes of his mother."

According to Shilstone, Bowe has never been in better shape for any contest. He believes that he is looking as good now as he did for the first bout with Holyfield.

"He's going in there for Dorothy." Shilstone said, "to prove that she can be proud of him. That's an incredible motivation for Bowe. She told him she was embarrassed for him and the family. She gave him that message when he visited her recently and sat down to a meal. Bowe just dropped the fork and went out with his tail between his legs, his head down."

Shilstone said that despite the tedium of putting up with Atlantic City for three months, it had been a delight working with Bowe who had always been fully co-operative.

Bowe's diet was kept under control by all meals being eaten as a family by the training team. "I did not particularly care for being here for three months, but I'll tell you it was a breath of fresh air being with Bowe, usually it isn't like that," Shilstone said. "He could not have been more committed. He started at 278lb and now if you look at him you will see sharp muscle definition on his body."

However, when it is all over and Bowe has made his peace with his mother, the training team will have to watch him closely. He has promised to go back and have his first good meal.

"I hit my targeted fight weight in the low 240s on Thanksgiving Day; that should tell you how committed I am," Bowe said. "It meant passing up my mother's traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, chitterlings, ham, candied yams, collard, greens and corn bread. Mamma Bowe has promised to freeze it for me and you can bet it will be my first big meal after the fight."

☐ Emanuel Steward has turned down the chance to act as Mike Tyson's trainer in order to stay with Lennox Lewis, his rival heavyweight. Steward was approached after Tyson unexpectedly lost his WBA crown to Evander Holyfield.

Steward said: "I suppose it is quite flattering to be asked by Mike to work with him. A lot of people believe that is the No 1 trainer's job in boxing but I had to tell him and his people that I already have the top job."

Bowe: training hard

Oarsmen Pinsent, left, Redgrave and Jonny Searle and the football personality, Jimmy Hill, launch the 1997 Unisys SPARKS Flora London Marathon charity appeal at the Tower of London yesterday

Redgrave and Pinsent enjoy rare honour

THE Henley Stewards followed their annual meeting at the Royal Automobile Club yesterday by hosting a reception to mark the achievements of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, an action not taken since 1951 when a successful Cambridge crew were honoured by the Henley hierarchy (Mike Rosewell writes).

When Mike Sweeney, the Henley chairman, rang Pinsent with the invitation, he received the reply: "Good, I can get at you to reinstate the Goblets" — a reference to the fact that, for the past 30 years, the winners of the coxless pairs have not received a silver goblet each.

Sweeney said nothing, since the Stewards had already taken the decision to give goblets to all the winners of the event over that missing three decades. During that period, Redgrave has won the event a record seven times, four times with Pinsent, twice with his 1988 Olympic gold medal-winning partner, Andy Holmes, and once with Simon Berrisford. Redgrave and Pinsent were given one goblet each at yesterday's reception for their 1995 win, when they shattered the course record, and will receive the rest, together with all the other winners, at Henley next July. Redgrave had a further surprise to come when Sweeney also announced that he had been elected a Steward of the Regatta, an unusual honour for an individual still competing.

The Stewards announced that the event produced an annual surplus of £184,658 and that £265,000 had been donated to the Stewards' Charitable Trust, allowing the Trustees to continue to fund a full-time national coach for juniors and support other schemes to foster grass-roots junior rowing.

The Queen has allowed a new trophy, the Princess Royal Challenge Cup, to be presented to the winners of the women's singles skulls, an event that has been trophyless since its introduction in 1993.

Talks boost Ireland's Ryder Cup prospects

IRELAND'S plans to stage the 2005 Ryder Cup moved a step forward yesterday after talks between Bernard Allen, the country's Minister for Sport, and PGA European Tour officials, led by Ken Schofield, the executive director.

The two-hour meeting in Dublin left Schofield suggesting that Ireland would be well-favoured in its bid for the biennial golfing event.

"The strong development of quality facilities and increasing overall tournament support throughout Ireland will be instrumental in the selection process which, together with Ireland's traditional playing strength, will make for a very strong and deserving candidature," he said.

Davis Cup aim

Tennis: Sir Geoffrey Cass took over as president of the Lawn Tennis Association at its annual meeting in London yesterday and set out his intentions by saying: "Winning the Davis Cup is a distinct possibility. We have, in effect, two No 1s in Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski. We are the eighth or ninth strongest nation in the world now. Henman and Rusedski are going to improve. They have the possibility of getting into the top ten and it is good to have two such strong players, rather than relying on your No 1 all the time."

Nash to rescue

Cricket: David Nash left his sick bed to help England Under-19s to a two-wicket win over Pakistan in the first international in Faisalabad. England began the final day needing 51 for victory with seven wickets in hand, a target that was reduced to 15 with six wickets left. Pakistan then took four wickets for nine runs and England were still five short of the 150 needed to win, with two wickets standing. Nash, despite suffering with a temperature well over 100F, then saw England home.

Sweet pickings

Cycling: Ambrosia Desserts, already committed to a road and track team next year, yesterday confirmed that it will sponsor the 1997 Premier Calendar, the season-long road race competition of 17 leading events in England, Scotland and Wales.

ICE HOCKEY

Britain need quick double to progress

IN A rare show of devotion to the national cause, the Superleague has cut right back on its fixtures this week to allow Peter Woods, the Great Britain coach, to keep his squad together for ten days as they prepare for their last two games in the Olympic qualifying tournament (Norman de Mesquita writes).

They face Holland in Heerenveen tonight, a game they should win comfortably, and play Switzerland in Sheffield on Wednesday. This is the game that will decide who progresses to the next stage of the competition.

Both countries are unbeaten and drew 2-2 in Switzerland a year ago. That is the only point the Swiss have dropped, while Britain were also held 1-1 by Denmark at Milton Keynes a year ago, a disappointing result, particularly as they won the return match in Denmark 3-2.

The Britain team is much as expected, with a preponderance of dual-nationals whose experience should see them through against the Dutch.

They should also prove strong enough to beat Switzerland next week and, if that is the case, the next stage of the competition for Britain is in February, in either Innsbruck or Garmisch-Partenkirchen, when eight teams will compete in two groups of four, five of the eight going on to Nagano in 1998.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

JAKARTA: World Cup qualifying round: Men: Group A: D Hall (Eng) bt Cheng Gang (China) 10-15, 15-11, 14-4; P Chen (Malaysia) bt F Permadi (Taiwan) 15-17, 15-9, 15-9. Group B: P E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt J van Dijk (Holl) 15-8, 15-3, J Resobin (Indo) bt L Kwang Jin (S Kor) 15-6, 15-8. Group C: A Budikusuma (Indo) bt S B Nielsen (Den) 15-12, 15-5; Dong Jiong (China) bt O Pongratz (Ger) 15-11, 15-6. Group D: O Ewe Hock (Malaysia) bt M L Hansen (Den) 15-12, 15-7, J Olsson (Swe) bt P Sung Woo (S Kor) 15-13, 8-15, 17-15. Women: Group A: M Audina (Indo) bt L Joo-hyun (S Kor) 11-4, 11-3. Group B: Wang Chen (China) bt T Ida (Japan) 11-1, 11-7. Group C: Ye Zhaoying (China) bt H Mizui (Japan) 7-11, 11-6, 11-2. Group D: S Susanti (Indo) bt P Plungwech (Thai) 11-6, 11-2.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Marc-Kormend (Hun) 84 London Towers 79

CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Newcastle 84 Sheffield 75 (Sheffield win 168-164 on agg).
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Golden State 101 Toronto 91; Atlanta 89 Denver 88; Miami 76 Cleveland 74; New York 85 Washington 73; Houston 96 Minnesota 94; Detroit 93 Milwaukee 85; Phoenix 93 San Antonio 76, Utah 110 Indiana 88; Orlando 99 Portland 93; Dallas 100 LA Clippers 95; LA Lakers 92 Sacramento 90.

CRICKET

Third Test match

India v South Africa

KANPUR (fourth day of five): South Africa, with five second-innings wickets in hand, need 334 runs to beat India

INDIA: First innings 237 (S R Tendulkar 61, W V Raman 57; P R Adams 6-55).

Second innings

W V Raman lbw b De Villiers	2
†N R Mongia lbw b Klusener	18
A Kumble c Gibbs b De Villiers	42
S C Ganguly c McMillan b Symcox	41
*S R Tendulkar c Richardson b Klusener	36
M Azharuddin not out	163
R S Dravid c McMillan b Adams	56
S Joshi b Adams	16
A R Kapoor not out	6
Extras (b 4, lb 14, nb 2)	20
Total (7 wkts dec)	400

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-41, 91-3, 4-121, 5-192, 6-357, 7-385.

BOWLING: De Villiers 24-10-58-2; Klusener 25-7-72-2; McMillan 16-6-36-0; Cronje 15-5-31-0; Adams 20-1-84-2; Symcox 26-2-101-1

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 177 (A Kumble 4-71)

Second innings

A C Hudson c sub b Kumble	31
G Kirsten lbw b Srinath	7
H H Gibbs b Prasad	5
D J Cullinan run out	2
*W J Cronje c Tendulkar b Joshi	50
B M McMillan not out	18
†D J Richardson not out	5
Extras (lb 9)	9
Total (5 wkts)	127

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-26, 3-39, 4-97, 5-109.

BOWLING: Srinath 11-4-15-1; Prasad 9-4-24-1; Kumble 16-7-17-1; Kapoor 9-4-10-0; Joshi 18-5-52-1.

Umpires: D R Shepherd (England) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

Tour match

Queensland v England A

BRISBANE (second day of four): Queensland, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 76 runs behind England A

ENGLAND A: First innings

M A Butcher c Cassell b Jackson	72
M P Vaughan c Barsby b Creevey	0
A McGrath c Law b Muller	1
C White c Seccombe b Creevey	24
J E R Gallian lbw b Creevey	26
*A J Hollioake lbw b Prestwidge	0
M A Ealham c Seccombe b Creevey	41
†W K Hegg c Law b Creevey	3
A F Giles c Seccombe b Creevey	20
G Chapple not out	16
D W Headley b Muller	14
Extras (lb 7, nb 6)	13
Total	230

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-9, 3-39, 4-99, 5-114, 6-147, 7-164, 8-196, 9-201

BOWLING: Muller 18.3-6-42-2; Creevey 27-5-70-6; Prestwidge 12-2-45-1; Law 5-2-14-0; Jackson 21-8-52-1.

QUEENSLAND: First innings

T J Dixon c Vaughan b White	62
T J Barsby lbw b Ealham	29
J P Maher c Hegg b White	10
*S G Law c Chapple b Hollioake	19
M P Mott not out	12
J L Cassell not out	9
Extras (lb 3, nb 10)	13
Total (4 wkts)	154

†W A Seccombe, S A Prestwidge, B N Creevey, P W Jackson and S A Muller to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-81, 3-130, 4-132

BOWLING: Headley 9-1-30-0; Chapple 13-4-33-0; Ealham 5-2-16-1; Giles 9-3-25-0; White 10-2-27-2; Hollioake 8-5-20-1.

Umpires: P D Parker and J F Torpey.

UNDER-19 TOUR MATCH: Faisalabad (final day of four): Pakistan 256 and 123; England 230 and 150-8. England win by two wickets.

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton Athletic 1 Crystal Palace 1; West Ham United 3 Bournemouth 2; Wimbledon 1 Brighton and Hove Albion 1.
FOREST SCHOOL: Independent schools' six-a-side tournament: Cup: Forest 1 Manchester GS 1 (Forest won 5-4 on pens); Brentwood 2 Bradfield 1; Repton 1 St Bede's 0; Bury 2 Haileybury 1; Bolton 2 Hulme GS 1; Shrewsbury 0 King's, Chester 0 (Shrewsbury win 4-3 on pens); Wolverhampton GS 2 QEGS Blackburn 0; Lancing 1 Ardingly 1 (Lancing win 7-6 on pens). Quarter-finals: Forest 1 Brentwood 0; Bury 1 Repton 0, Bolton 2 Shrewsbury 1; Wolverhampton GS 2 Lancing 0. Semi-finals: Bury 2 Forest 1; Wolverhampton GS 1 Bolton 0. Final: Wolverhampton 2 Bury 0. Plate: Final: Hampton 1 John Lyon 0
ASIAN CUP: Kuwait 2 South Korea 0 (in Abu Dhabi); Iraq 4 Thailand 1; Saudi Arabia 0 Iran 3 (both in Dubai).

Tuesday's late results

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee United 1 Rangers 0. First division: Stirling Albion 1 St Mirren 1. Second division: Hamilton Academical 0 Stenhousemuir 2; Clyde 1 Stranraer 0. Third division: Cowdenbeath 1 Forfar Athletic 3.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Macclesfield Town 0 Kidderminster Harriers 1.
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: First round: Northern section: Bury 3 Darlington 1; Carlisle United 2 Rochdale 0; Doncaster Rovers 1 Stockport County 2; Hartlepool United 0 Burnley 2; Hull City 3 Chester City 1; Rotherham United 0 Blackpool 1; Scarborough 0 Notts County 1. Southern section: Bristol Rovers 1 Brentford 2; Cambridge United 0 Colchester United 1; Luton Town 2 Leyton Orient 1; Plymouth Argyle 2 Bournemouth 0; Gillingham 1 Cardiff City 2 (aet: 1-1 after 90min; Cardiff City win on golden goal rule).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Isis League XI 1 FA XI 0.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge 0 Lancaster 2; Colwyn Bay 3 Runcorn 3; Leek 1 Gainsborough 0.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Atherstone Rovers 0 Tamworth United 3; Cambridge City 1 Sudbury Town 4; Merthyr 2 Witney Town 2; Cheltenham Town 1 Gloucester City 0; Crawley Town 1 Tonbridge Athletic 2; Trowbridge Town 1 Forest Green 1; Waterlooville 0 Weymouth 1.
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine 1 Glenavon 1; Crusaders 2 Cliftonville 1, Portadown 1 Glentoran 1. First division: Bangor 1 Larne 2; Newry 1 Omagh Town 2.
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 3 Leeds United 2; Nottingham Forest 2 Birmingham City 4. First division: Sheffield United 1 Sunderland 4.
FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second-round replay: Sandwell 0 Hallam 1
GILBERT LEAGUE: Cup: Second round, second leg: Aberystwyth 1 Newtown 4 (Newtown win 5-2 on agg); Connah's Quay 4 Bangor City 1 (Bangor City win 6-4 on agg); Llansantffraid 1 Conwy United 0 (Llansantffraid win 3-0 on agg); Rhyl 1 Holywell 0 (Rhyl win 1-0 on agg)
SCHOOLS MATCH: FA Premier League Under-18 Trophy: Nottinghamshire 2 Lincolnshire 1.
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second-round draw: Northern section: Wrexham v Crewe Alexandra; Bury v Mansfield Town; Shrewsbury Town v Wigan Athletic; Burnley v Stockport County; Carlisle United v Hull City; Blackpool v Lincoln City; Scunthorpe United v Notts County; York City v Preston North End. Southern section: Watford v Torquay United; Plymouth Argyle v Brighton and Hove Albion or Fulham; Brentford v Barnet; Cardiff City v Exeter City; Swansea City or Wycombe Wanderers v Bristol City; Northampton Town v Luton Town; Millwall v Colchester United; Peterborough United v Walsall. *To be played week commencing January 6*
FRENCH CUP: Second round: Lyons 2 Paris Saint-Germain 1; Marseilles 3 Auxerre 2.

HOCKEY

MADRAS: Champions Trophy: India 3 Australia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
India	4	2	1	1	8	4	7
Germany	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Pakistan	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Spain	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
Australia	4	0	1	3	5	11	1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 0 Edmonton 0; NY Islanders 8 Phoenix 2; Philadelphia 5 Florida 4; New Jersey 5 Toronto 2; Calgary 5 Ottawa 5; Pittsburgh 5 Los Angeles 3.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: England A 22 Argentina XV 17 (at Northampton); Richmond 12 Western Samoa XV 32.
ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 2A: Ebbw Vale 15 Gloucester 22.
UNDER-21 UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford 22 Cambridge 13 (at Stoop Memorial Ground).
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Scotland Development XV 31 Queensland 63 (at McDiarmid Park).
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Third round: Midlands: Warwick 21 Bablake 10; King Edward VI, Camp Hill 10 Mount St Mary's 16; King Henry VIII, Coventry 9 King's, Worcester 14. North: Kirkham wo St Edward's, Liverpool; Lancaster RGS 24 Rossall 19; QEGS, Wakefield 11 Durham 25; RGS Newcastle 10 Bradford GS 13. South West: King's, Gloucester 13 Colston's 24; Liskeard 22 Plymouth Coll 32; RGS High Wycombe 12 Pangbourne Coll 15; Bishop Wordworth's 7 Thomas Hardye 5. London and South East: Campion 43 Mill Hill 8; Lord Wordsworth 24 Reigate GS 22; Wimbledon Coll 39 St Olave's GS 10.
POSTPONED: Anglo-Welsh Cup: Pool 2A: London Irish v Newbridge. Hart Gilmore Four Counties Championship: Derbyshire v Shropshire.

SNOOKER

OSNABRUCK: German Open: Tenth round: S Hendry (Scot) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-1; N Bond (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng) 5-3; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt A Hicks (Eng) 5-1.

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group A: Denham Wine Queens Halifax 3 Morrells Distributors, Bishop's Stortford 2 (D Campion lost to R Godden 7-9, 4-9, 9-5, 7-9, A Toes bt J Robbins 9-0, 9-2, 9-4, M Barrett lost to B Ford 9-6, 6-9, 5-9, 5-9, L Beachill bt B Ball 7-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-0, C Jackman bt R Macree 9-2, 9-1, 9-4); Mitsubishi Electric, Potters Bar 4, Irwin Mitchell, Hallamshire 1 (J Ransome lost to P Lord 2-98, 9-3, 3-9, 4-9, J Davis bt M Hornby 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, P Carter bt N Matthew 10-8, 9-3, 9-0, I Higgins bt N Wall 9-1, 9-1, 9-1. S Wright bt J Thacker 9-0, 9-7, 1-9, 9-2).
WOMEN'S FINNISH OPEN: Final: S Wright (Eng) bt J Martin (Eng) 9-3, 9-5, 9-3.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £331,520.00; 23 £561.05; 22 £27.90; 21 £8.95. Half-time: £320.35 for 21pts maximum. Four draws: £7.30. Ten homes (paid on nine): £876.75. Five aways: £2.55.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £20,568.30; 23 £179.10; 22 £30.00. Super shots (paid on two correct in correct order): £24.80. Premier ten (paid on eight correct): £38.10
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £24,816.15; 23 £26.20; 22 £2.70; 21 £0.50. First eight (two dividends only): 14pts £20.15; 13 £1.95. Four aways: £4.00. Eight homes (nothing barred): £294.00. Four draws (nothing barred): £13.20. Super seven: £93.30. Lucky numbers: 36, 35, 26, 11, 28, 5.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Geir Helgemo, the world individual champion, and Tony Forrester did well in the United States summer nationals; they were second in the life masters pairs and reached the semi-final of the teams. You can see them both in action at the Macallan international pairs in January. Forrester made a good bid on this hand from the life masters pairs.

Dealer North   Game all   Pairs

North:
♠K932
♥105
♦65
♣AKJ53

West:
♠AJ5
♥764
♦AKJ4
♣1042

East:
♠108
♥982
♦Q9873
♣876

South:
♠Q764
♥AKQJ3
♦102
♣Q9

W	N	E	S
—	1C	Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2D
Pass	3C	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Contract: Four Hearts by South   Lead: King of diamonds

It is correct to open on the North hand. Although the hand is completely minimum in high cards, it contains two good features: the high cards are in the long suits, and the suits are such that North will be able to show both of them. Make the hand

♠K932 ♥AK653 ♦J5 ♣105

and North should pass — if he opens One Heart, in most sequences he will not be able to show his spades on the second round.

Many players would have raised North's One Spade rebid to Four Spades, but Forrester asked for further information via his Two Diamond bid ("fourth suit forcing"). When Helgemo rebid his clubs, Forrester could see that hearts and clubs would provide plenty of tricks, but a spade contract might have too many losers in the trump suit.

So he made the courageous bid of Four Hearts. That made in some comfort, while most of the field were going off in Four Spades, losing two diamonds and two trump tricks.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Close battle

The difficulty of winning against opponents of the highest level was underscored in the second round of the elite tournament at Las Palmas. Garry Kasparov remains in the lead with 1½ points, ahead of Kramnik, Anand, Karpov and Ivanchuk on 1, with Topalov on ½. Kasparov can congratulate himself on a fine start, since he has surmounted the disadvantage of playing two consecutive games with the black pieces and already is in the lead.

In the second round, Kasparov drew with Ivanchuk, Kramnik drew with Topalov and Karpov drew with Anand. In the following game, Karpov, the Fide champion, tries to exploit the most microscopic of advantages. Anand's accurate defence prevented Karpov from making use of the bonus conferred by his slightly more centralised pieces and the infinitesimal weakness of Black's a-pawn.

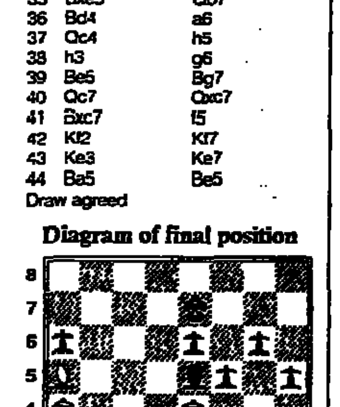
White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Las Palmas, December 1996

Queen's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	g3	Ba6
5	b3	Bb4+
6	Bd2	Be7
7	Bg2	c6
8	Bc3	d5
9	Ne5	Nfd7
10	Nxd7	Nxd7
11	Nd2	0-0
12	0-0	Rc8
13	e4	b5
14	Re1	dxc4
15	bxc4	bxc4
16	Qa4	Bb5
17	Qc2	Re8
18	a4	Ba6
19	Rad1	Bf8
20	Nf1	Qb6
21	Rb1	Qc7
22	Ne3	Rb8
23	Bf1	Rxb1
24	Rxb1	Rb8
25	Bxc4	Rxb1+
26	Qxb1	Bxc4
27	Nxc4	Qc8
28	Bd2	Qa6
29	Qc2	Nf6
30	f3	c5
31	Be3	cxd4
32	Bxd4	Nd7
33	Kg2	h6
34	Ne5	Nxe5
35	Bxe5	Qb7
36	Bd4	a6
37	Qc4	h5
38	h3	g6
39	Be5	Bg7
40	Qc7	Qxc7
41	Bxc7	f5
42	Kf2	Kf7
43	Ke3	Ke7
44	Ba5	Be5

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DIAULOS
a. An afternoon nap
b. A double oar
c. A double course

EVAL
a. Peccant
b. A contemporary
c. Old

DRAISINE
a. A bicycle
b. A logarithm
c. A red raisin

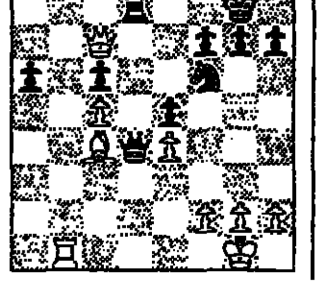
EXIMIOUS
a. Hungry
b. Excellent
c. Outrageous

Answers on page 45

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

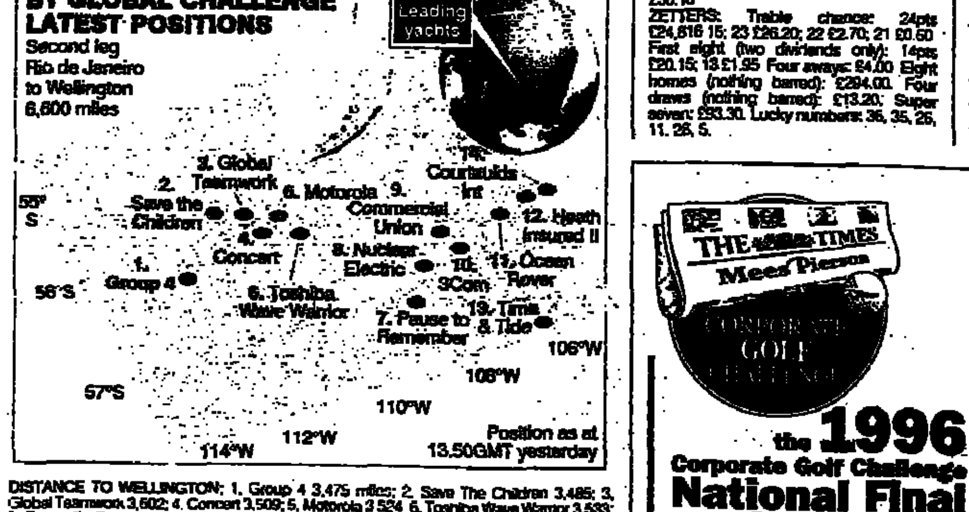
White to play. This position is from the game Krasenkov — Hickl, Jakarta, 1996. White can capture on f7 with either his queen or bishop. Should he select one of these moves, or does he have something better?



Solution on page 45

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS

Second leg
Rio de Janeiro
to Wellington
6,600 miles



Position as at 13.50GMT yesterday

DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1, Group 4 3,475 miles; 2, Save The Children 3,485; 3, Global Teamwork 3,502; 4, Concert 3,509; 5, Motorola 3,524; 6, Toshiba Wave Warrior 3,533; 7, Pause To Remember 3,604; 8, Nuclear Electric 3,613; 9, Commercial Union 3,616; 10, 3Com 3,621; 11, Ocean Rover 3,668; 12, Heath Insured II 3,685; 13, Time & Tide 3,702; 14, Courtaulds International 3,715

THE TIMES MeesPierson CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE
the 1996 Corporate Golf Challenge National Final from La Manga

Today on TV
at 1.00pm and 9.00pm
Sky sports 3

هكذا من الاصل

RACING: JOCKEY CLUB INTENT ON MINIMISING RISKS AS TRAINING AND RIDING STANDARDS COME UNDER SCRUTINY

Determination to outlaw the bad jumpers

By Dick Hinder

TOUGHER measures to rid National Hunt racing of bad jumpers is the top priority of a wide-ranging Jockey Club report into training and riding standards. The second stage of an inquiry, launched after the accidental death of jockey Richard Davis, recommends bans for horses that regularly fail to complete.

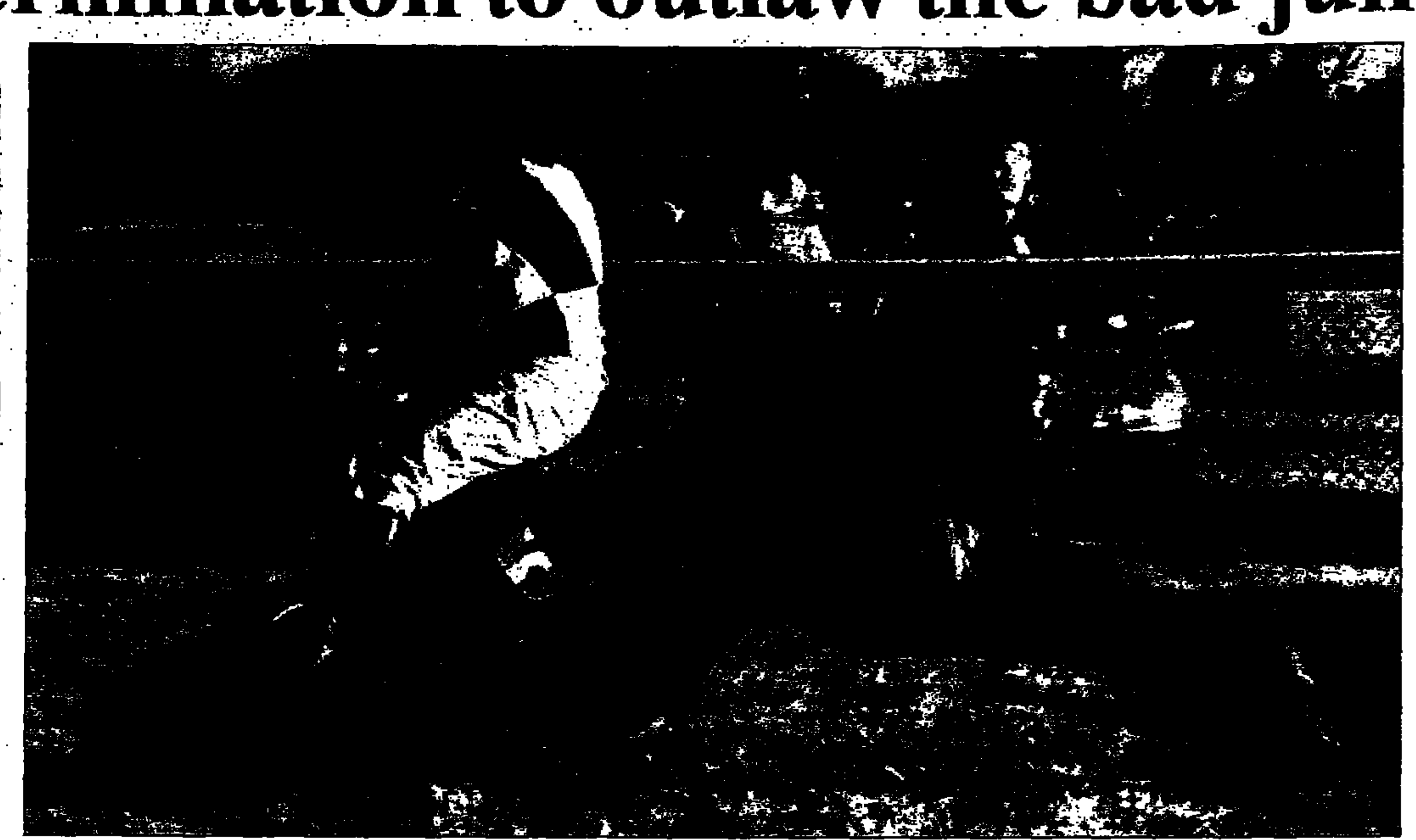
It also proposes more rigorous examination of prospective trainers' knowledge and experience, the level and competence of stable staff and their access to training and schooling facilities. Trainers who fail to meet a minimum performance standard may not have their licence renewed.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FITZWILLIAM
(3.40 Sandown Park)
Next best: Inchcailloch
(3.10 Sandown Park).

The report, published yesterday, also recommends independent assessments of riders' abilities before a licence is granted and unannounced spot checks on training facilities. In addition, practice hurdles should be trialled and the possibility of holding schooling races discussed.

It follows the publication earlier this week of part one of the inquiry, which examined the circumstances surrounding Davis's death to coincide with the inquest into the death of the jump jockey, who received internal injuries after a fall from Mr Sox at Southwell.



Parting company with fallers is a priority of the Jockey Club as it attempts to improve jumping standards. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

The report will be examined in detail by an investigating group who, in turn, will present their recommendations to the licensing committee or stewards, where appropriate, for a decision on implementation.

The elimination of horses with little jumping ability heads the list of objectives. Among the safety measures put forward by Davis's parents, John and Ann, is the proposal to reschool horses that regularly fail to get round. They would have to pass an assessment before running again and could be banned for the rest of the season if falling on their next outing.

Having failed to complete in three of his four previous outings, Davis's mount Mr Sox, trained by Laura Shally, had the sort of record that may attract Jockey Club scrutiny in future.

In the last two seasons, an average of 33 horses (0.4 per cent) failed to complete on four consecutive runs and 15 (0.17 per cent) either fell, unseated or were brought down three times in a row.

Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's Director of Regulation and a member of the working group, stressed the emphasis of the inquiry is on minimising risk in the sport. "For as long as horses go fast and jump fences, there will be accidents and some of them will be fatal. But we think something can be done to minimise that risk by tackling the problems that exist," he said. "So our first priority is to find a formula to get rid of the bad horses. We will treat each case on its merits and will use common sense before deciding to ban a horse. But we can't have horses going out and constantly not getting round.

"The problem seems to be manageable. It's hard to believe people still want to race horses that regularly fail to complete, but they do and there are young jockeys who are prepared to sit on anything," Wallace said. "We have a duty of care to try to ensure that the horses these riders are on are well schooled, if not particularly talented."

He added: "A lot of the top jockeys agree. They've been through this, but they don't want the ones coming up behind them exposed to the same risk. Over 90 per cent of the trainers we spoke to agree too. Some aren't in favour of practice obstacles or schooling races but, by and large, this was a rewarding exercise."

Toby Balding, a member of the National Trainers' Federation Council, welcomed the recommendations.

"Anything that tightens up trainers' responsibilities has to be welcomed. The requirements placed on a licence holder are fair and valid," he said. "I wouldn't be in favour of practice obstacles, and schooling races will just be another expense that the National Hunt fraternity wouldn't stand for.

"I understand what they are saying about bad jumpers, though there are horses I've trained with bad records. For instance, Salehurst spent more time on the ground than not and when he wasn't on the ground he was winning. He won a BMW final and on his good days he was a very good horse."

Balding added: "I think it was right that there has been little criticism of Miss Shally. You see falls like Mr Sox had on a daily basis, but you don't see the horse land on top of the jockey. Usually the rider is thrown clear."

SAILING

Goss shrugs off blow to get back on course

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

PETE GOSS, of Great Britain, yesterday suffered his second knock-down in as many races on board his 50ft Adrian Thompson-designed *Aqua Quorum*, as he ran before strong westerly winds through the Roaring Forties in the Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race.

Goss was asleep when the boat went over on her side, probably after an involuntary gybe, leaving the swinging keel apparently sticking up out of the water, he told the Paris headquarters.

Just as in the single-handed transatlantic earlier this year, when he was also knocked down, Goss had to get his mainsail off in order to right the stricken yacht. He suffered two broken battens in the mainsail and the loss of two hanks on his jib, but otherwise appears to have emerged unscathed and is racing again.

Ahead of him in sixth place overall, Eric Dumont, of France, on *Café Legal-Le Gout*, yesterday decided to continue the race, despite a collision with a lump of ice on Monday that holed his hull.

The BT Global Challenge fleet, meanwhile, is facing another dose of strong Southern Ocean weather after a day of what the crew of *Heath Insured II* described as "another bonus day of blue skies and sun".

The forecast predicts a deep depression to the south of the fleet that will bring strong-to-gale-force northwesterly winds and heavy rain.

The fleet is divided into three, with the leading six led by Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, followed by *Save The Children* and *Global Teamwork*. After the sixth-placed *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, comes a 70-mile gap to *Pause To Remember*, *Nuclear Electric*, *Commercial Union* and *3Com*. There is then a smaller gap of about 45 miles to the last group, led by *Heath Insured II*.

BT Global chart, page 42

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
1.00 NEAT FEAT (nap)
1.35 Redeemyourself
2.10 *Easthorpe*
2.40 Atavistic
3.10 Inchcailloch
3.40 *Soldier Mak*

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 NASONE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,970: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

101 16-1 HURRICANE LAMP 21 (D,G,S) (F Welch) D Nicholson 5-11-10 A Maguire 86
102 AWARD (Mrs P Cooper) R Rowe 5-11-0 D O'Sullivan —
103 R/0005-P BLACK STATEMENT 21 (B Naylor) A Jarvis 5-11-0 L Aspell (3) 58
104 P6/506-2 CALVARO 21 (B Naylor) A Jarvis 5-11-0 G Bradley 63
105 1- FRIENDSHIP 204 (G) (T Benfield) N Henderson 4-11-0 M A Fitzgerald —
106 5-0 GALE WARGAME 12 (Lady Lloyd Webber) O Sherwood 5-11-0 J Osborne —
107 JAZZMAN (L Fust) A Jones 4-11-0 D Gallagher —
108 10-4 NASONE 12 (S) (J Plackett) J Gifford 5-11-0 P Hide ■
109 1216-24 NEAT FEAT 15 (F) (Food Brokers) D Elsworth 5-11-0 P Holley 84
110 55/0-0 PHYSICAL FUN 22 (A Blackmore) A Blackmore 5-11-0 D Skyrme —
111 0-6 ROSSELL ISLAND 26 (R Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0 W Marston —
112 114 SUPREME CHARM 20 (G) (P Vogt) K Bailey 4-11-0 W McFarland 88
113 062-0 LOCH NA KEAL 29 (S Kimber) C Morlock 4-10-9 C Maude —

BETTING: 2-1 Hurricane Lamp, 4-1 Nasone, 6-1 Friendship, 8-1 Neat Feat, 10-1 Supreme Charm, 16-1 Gale Wargame, 20-1 others.

1995: CALL EQUINAME 5-11-10 A P McCoy (9-4) P Nicholls 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

HURRICANE LAMP beat Smolensk 5l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). CALVARO 13⁄4l 2nd of 5 to Wayfarers Way in novices handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). FRIENDSHIP beat Buckheart 3½l in 16-runner National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good). NASONE 7l 4th of 19 to Hoh Warrior in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). NEAT FEAT 6½l 4th of 11 to Ready Money Creek in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). SUPREME CHARM 22l 4th of 9 to Carole's Crusader in novice hurdle at Ascot (3m, good). LOCH NA KEAL 19l 10th of 21 to Boots Madden in National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good).
Selection: SUPREME CHARM

1.35 BOVIS LELLIOTT NOVICES CHASE (£4,814: 2m 4f 110yd) (3 runners)

201 6121-11 POTTER'S BAY 26 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Potter) D Nicholson 7-11-7 A Maguire ■
202 400/11-1 REDEEMYOURSELF 29 (D,G,S) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 7-11-4 P Hide 97
203 4F0/30/ TRIPLE WITCHING 768 (G,S) (W Robins) N Henderson 10-11-0 M A Fitzgerald —

BETTING: 6-4 Redeemyourself, 13-8 Potter's Bay, 9-4 Triple Witching

1995: DARK HONEY 10-10-12 R Dunwoody (6-4) S Dow 2 ran

FORM FOCUS

POTTER'S BAY completed treble, beat Flimsy Truth 3½l in 3-runner novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm).
REDEEMYOURSELF completed treble, beat Madison County 12l in 7-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good). TRIPLE WITCHING 14l 3rd of 7 to Halkopous in grade II Tote West Yorkshire Hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good) on penultimate start, Oct 94.
Selection: REDEEMYOURSELF

2.10 BOVIS CROWNGAP HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,775: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

301 52F/024- BRADBURY STAR 245 (CD,F,G,S) (J Campbell) J Gifford 11-12-0 P Hide 90
302 1126-20 EASTHORPE 26 (C,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 8-11-7 M A Fitzgerald 98
303 3P-110F STRONG MEDICINE 13 (CD,F,G) (D Stitt) K Bailey 9-11-0 J Osborne ■
304 15-23UP CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 26 (D,F,G) (B Kealy) G Balding 6-10-1 — 97
305 U22412 STATELY HOME 36 (D,BF,F,S) (P Bowen) P Bowen 5-10-0 A Maguire 96

Long handicap: Stately Home 9-13

BETTING: 2-1 Strong Medicine, 5-2 Easthorpe, 3-1 Bradbury Star, 9-2 Stately Home, 8-1 Conti D'Estruval.

1995: LONESOME GLORY 7-10-0 Blythe Miller (11-4) C Brooks 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRADBURY STAR distant 2nd of 3 to Grange Brake in the grade II Rehearsal Chase (Limited Handicap) at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start, Dec 95. STRONG MEDICINE completed double, beat Golden Spinner 1¼l in 5-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) Nov 96. CONTI D'ESTRUVAL (6lb better off) 3rd when blundered and unseated rider 13th. Previously beat EASTHORPE (8lb better off) 1½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm). CONTI D'ESTRUVAL neck and 10l 3rd of 4 to Glemot in handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good), Oct 95. STATELY HOME 4l 2nd of 4 to Eastern Magic in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, good).
Selection: EASTHORPE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	28	83	33.7	A Maguire	17	80	21.3
Miss H Knight	6	28	21.4	C Maude	5	28	17.9
O Sherwood	9	43	20.9	W Marston	5	28	17.9
J Old	6	31	19.4	J Osborne	14	96	14.6
J Gifford	21	127	16.5	P Hide	10	72	13.9
C Brooks	6	41	14.6	G Bradley	9	70	12.9

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143. GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.40 BOVIS CROWNGAP WINTER NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £9,645: 2m 6f) (6 runners)

401 3124-11 JACK TANNER 33 (D,F,G) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 7-11-7 A Maguire ■
402 22P05-1 YAHMI 13 (G) (W Stott) J Old 6-11-4 J Osborne 84
403 0210-3 ATAVISTIC 21 (G) (Mrs J Emery) C Popham 4-11-0 M A Fitzgerald 66
404 2F3-3 EULOGY 25 (BF) (N Cooper) R Rowe 6-11-0 D O'Sullivan 91
405 112415 RIVER ROOM 29 (CD,F,G) (D Allum) K Bailey 6-11-0 G Bradley 86
406 51-4422 SUPERMODEL 27 (G) (Miss S Rudge) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-9 S Wynne 67

BETTING: 4-7 Jack Tanner, 11-4 Yahmi, 8-1 Eulogy, 10-1 River Room, 20-1 Atavistic, 50-1 Supermodel.

1995: SEE MORE BUSINESS 5-11-4 A P McCoy (15-8) P Nicholls 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

JACK TANNER completed double, beat Make A Stand distance in 3-runner grade II Stainless Threaded Fasteners 10th Anniversary Classic Novices Hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). YAHMI beat Menesonic 11l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good). ATAVISTIC 3l 3rd of 11 to Kilcoington in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good). EULOGY neck and 19l 3rd of 7 to Moment Of Glory in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft). Previously 15l and head 3rd of 5 to See More Business in this race (good) last year.
RIVER ROOM beat Hylters Chance neck in 9-runner novices handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. SUPERMODEL 1¾l 2nd of 7 to Hunting Lore in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm).
Selection: JACK TANNER (nap)

3.10 P & O HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,678: 3m 5f 110yd) (4 runners)

501 2414-11 INCHCAILLOCH 19 (C,F,G,S) (F Carter) J King 7-11-7 C Maude ■
502 5P2-1P2 CHURCH LAW 12 (G) (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 9-10-0 A Maguire 95
503 26-1223 FROZEN DROP 25 (F,G) (J Cullen) P Rodford 9-10-0 S Fox 97
504 255-600 WOODLANDS GENHIRE 5 (B,F) (Woodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 11-10-0 W Marston 74

Long handicap: Church Law 9-12, Frozen Drop 9-8, Woodlands Genhire 7-0.

BETTING: 2-5 Inchcailloch, 9-1 Church Law, 6-1 Frozen Drop, 66-1 Woodlands Genhire

1995: WILLSFORD 12-11-10 W Marston (4-1) Mrs J Pitman 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

INCHCAILLOCH completed double, beat Go Ballistic 3½l in 3-runner handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to firm). CHURCH LAW 1l 2nd of 7 to Christmas Gorse in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). FROZEN DROP ¾l 2nd of 7 to Special Account in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. WOODLANDS GENHIRE tailed-off 8th of 10 to Harwell Lad in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good).
Selection: INCHCAILLOCH

3.40 SURREY RACING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,905: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

601 1 FAR DAWN 26 (D,G) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 11-7 C Maude ■
602 0 ALARICO 26 (J Poynton) I Williams 11-3 A Maguire 70
603 BARANOV 51F (Mrs S Nash) D Murray Smith 11-3 D Gallagher —
604 FITZWILLIAM 72F (P Mellon) I Balding 11-3 J Osborne —
605 GO WITH THE WIND 71F (A Chadwick) C Weedon 11-3 M Richards —
606 6 SAM ROCKETT 7F (B) (P Mooney) P Mooney 11-3 S Ryan (5) —
607 3 SOLDIER MAK 26 (J Low) A Hide 11-3 P Hide 92
608 00 HAWANAFA 13 (D Hammerson) J Moore 10-12 W McFarland 83
609 SPIRAL FLYER 94F (M Thurgood) M Usher 10-12 W Marston —
610 4 VERONICA FRANCO 8 (G Boyer) B Pearce 10-12 B Fenton 80
611 WHISPERING DAWN 35F (W Ponsonby) C Brooks 10-12 G Bradley —

BETTING: 2-1 Fitzwilliam, 9-4 Far Dawn, 6-1 Whispering Dawn, 8-1 Soldier Mak, 10-1 Baranov, Veronica Franco, 16-1 Go With The Wind, 20-1 others.

1995: ALLTIME DANCER 11-10 J Osborne (7-4) O Sherwood 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

FAR DAWN beat Sterling Fellow 4l in 19-runner juvenile hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) with HAWANAFA (4lb better off) 12l 8th. BARANOV 16l 8th of 16 to Sweetness Herself in Flat handicap at Chepstow (1m 4f, soft).
FITZWILLIAM 1½l 2nd of 9 to Dear Life in Flat handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good)
GO WITH THE WIND beat Influence Pedler 6l in 6-runner handicap on Flat at Nottingham (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, September 96. SOLDIER MAK 4l 3rd to Fijon in 16-runner juvenile hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good) with ALARICO 21l 9th.
VERONICA FRANCO 15½l 4th of 10 to Jetah in juvenile hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good). WHISPERING DAWN 2½l 4th of 14 to Scaraben in Flat handicap at Musselburgh (1m, good to soft).
No selection

Blinkered first time

FAKENHAM: 12.50 Cosmic Star, 3.30 Durshan. SANDOWN PARK: 3.40 Sam Rockett. TAUNTON: 1.45 Tibbs Inn, 2.20 Saxon Mead.

TAUNTON

THUNDERER
1.10 Lucia Forte. 1.45 Te Amo. 2.20 Nordic Valley. 2.50 Rosie-B. 3.20 Call Me River. 3.50 Out Ranking.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.10 WEST HATCH NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,778: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

1 3-F2 IKTASAB 50 (BF,G) P Nicholls 4-11-6 A P McCoy 90
2 21 YET AGAIN 14 (CD,F) Miss G Kelleway 4-11-6 D Bridgwater 95
3 /1-1 LUCIA FORTE 19 (G) K Bailey 5-11-1 S McNeill ■
4 P ASTRAL INVADER 5 M Saunders 4-11-0 T Dascombe (3) —
5 0- DECEIT THE SECOND 370 P Rodford 4-11-0 S Burrough —
6 EASY LISTENING 136F N Hawke 4-11-0 G Upton —
7 0 GALWAY BOSS 24 I Williams 4-11-0 N Williamson —
8 0- GWITHIAN 246 N Hawke 4-11-0 R Greene —
9 MAETERLINCK 486F G Thorner 4-11-0 Clare Thorner (7) —
10 30 SAHEL 26 J Mullins 8-11-0 S Curran 88
11 56- SHOW FAITH 30F R Hannon 6-11-0 R Hughes 86
12 0-0P SOPHIES DREAM 13 J Bradley 5-11-0 T J Murphy —
13 -526 SWAN STREET 25 C Mann 5-11-0 J Railton 83
14 WESTERN PLAYBOY 192F R Baker 4-11-0 R Farrant —

7-4 Lucia Forte, 7-2 Iktasab, 4-1 Yet Again, 10-1 Show Faith, 12-1 Swan Street, Easy Listening, Sahel, 20-1 others.

1.45 CHARD SELLING HURDLE
(£1,931: 2m 3f 110yd) (10)

1 P-11 HARRY 6 (G,S) D Burchell 6-11-12 D J Burchell ■
2 1440 SLEEPTITE 19 (F) W Turner 6-11-5 J Power (7) 89
3 4 COMEONUP 6 J Bradley 5-10-12 N Williamson 83
4 0P35 MIRAMARE 5 C Popham 6-10-12 T Dascombe (3) 81
5 0005 OLD MASTER 30 R Baker 5-10-12 N Willmington (7) 75
6 060- PERFECT BERTIE 276 N Babbage 4-10-12 S O'Shea (7) 74
7 4644 SARACEN PRINCE 19 C Popham 4-10-12 R Johnson 80
8 TE AMO 31F M Pipe 4-10-12 A P McCoy —
9 3R4R TIBBS INN 10 (B) A Barrow 7-10-12 Mr R Thornton (5) 75
10 00/P BLAKEWAY 36 G Ham 9-10-7 S Burrough —

2-1 Harry, 5-2 Te Amo, 9-2 Sleeptite, 6-1 Saracen Prince, 7-1 Comeonup, 10-1 Old Master, 16-1 Miramare, 20-1 others.

2.20 STOKE ST MARY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,037: 2m 3f) (14)

1 811- AFTER THE FOX 198 (F,G) N Hawke 9-12-0 G Upton —
2 11F5 NORDIC VALLEY 9 (F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-11 A P McCoy 90
3 -613 KOO'S PROMISE 10 (G) C Popham 5-11-6 T Dascombe (3) ■
4 04-4 NAUTICAL GEORGE 12 J Upson 6-11-6 R Supple 84
5 4-3U CRACKING PROSPECT 21 B Millman 5-11-3 D Salter (5) 93
6 1365 CHRIS'S GLEN 34 (V,F,G) J Bradley 7-11-3 N Williamson 86
7 642P FRONTIER FLIGHT 13 (G) Miss L Siddall 6-11-3 E Husband (3) —
8 5514 LEGAL ARTIST 21 (F,G) Miss C Johnsey 6-11-2 L Harvey 95
9 0546 SAN DIEGO CHARGER 14 (F) A Barrow 5-10-11 Mr R Thornton (5) —
10 P-4P BROWN ROBBER 12 Mrs R Henderson 8-10-8 R Farrant —
11 6566 ANLACE 17 (F,G) S Mellor 7-10-7 N Mann 80
12 5-50 GERRY'S PRIDE 26 J Mullins 5-10-5 S Curran —
13 00P SAXON MEAD 23 (B) P Hobbs 6-10-0 G Tormey —
14 0P0- MASKED MARTIN 323 P Rodford 5-10-0 S Burrough —

3-1 Nordic Valley, 9-2 Koo's Promise, 5-1 After The Fox, 8-1 Nautical George, Legal Artist, 10-1 Chris's Glen, Cracking Prospect, 16-1 others.

2.50 GAY SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,900: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 -463 STAUNCH RIVAL 27 (B,F,G,S) G Thorner 9-11-13 Clare Thorner (7) 86
2 P34P CERTAIN ANGLE 14 (C,BF,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-11-10 G Tormey 88
3 24-0 ROYAL PIPER 15 (S) A J Wilson 9-11-4 R Greene ■
4 F51- LUGS BRANNIGAN 280 (F) N Bradstock 7-10-11 Katharine Hambidge (7) 96
5 /U-5 PADDYSWAY 17 (D,F,S) R Buckler 9-10-8 D Bridgwater —
6 -1P4 TIGER CLAW 16 (C,F,G) A Hobbs 10-10-2 D Burrows (5) 97
7 340- KHATIR 199 (B,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-10-0 N Williamson 91
8 50-1 ROSIE-B 59 (S) N Babbage 6-10-0 Mr R Thornton (5) 93

5-2 Rosie-B, 3-1 Lugs Brannigan, 4-1 Staunch Rival, 7-1 Certain Angle, 8-1 Royal Piper, Tiger Claw, Paddysway, 10-1 Khatir

3.20 DUNSTER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,788: 3m) (8)

1 333F RAINBOW CASTLE 10 (F,G) P Nicholls 9-12-0 A P McCoy 94
2 P253 PAPER STAR 19 (F) M Muggeridge 9-11-8 Mr R Thornton (5) 86
3 4-21 SOLO GENT 16 (D,F,G,S) A Jones 7-11-4 S McNeill ■
4 343- ROYAL SAXON 406 (F,G,S) P Bowen 10-11-4 R Johnson 91
5 3/65 MAXXUM EXPRESS 16 (S) G Balding 8-10-8 R Guest 88
6 -621 CALL ME RIVER 15 (D,G) P Hedger 8-10-0 I Lawrence 96
7 -046 COOL CHARACTER 6 (G) R Buckler 9-10-0 D Bridgwater 91
8 -U33 GALLIC GIRL 24 (BF) C Popham 6-10-0 T Dascombe (3) 87

9-4 Solo Gent, 3-1 Call Me River, 4-1 Rainbow Castle, 8-1 Paper Star, Royal Saxon, Maxxum Express, 10-1 others.

3.50 BICKNOLLER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,794: 2m 1f) (5)

1 1241 OUT RANKING 12 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 4-11-10 A P McCoy ■
2 00-6 LUCKY EDDIE 8 (CD,G) P Hobbs 5-11-0 N Williamson 83
3 2F6- FABULOUS MTOTO 99F M Saunders 6-10-0 P Holley 83
4 6-53 MILLCROFT RIVIERA 14 R Alner 5-10-0 P Henley (3) 92
5 480 ADONISIS 12 D Elsworth 4-10-8 A Procter 81

4-5 Out Ranking, 5-1 Fabulous Mtoto, Millcroft Riviera, Lucky Eddie, 14-1 Adonisis.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Babbage, 3 winners from 10 runners 30.0%; P Hobbs, 23 from 90, 25.6%; M Pipe, 37 from 162, 22.8%; J Mullins, 3 from 14, 21.4%; P Hedger, 4 from 19, 21.1%; P Nicholls, 9 from 74, 12.2%.

JOCKEYS: N Williamson, 8 winners from 41 rides, 19.5%; A P McCoy, 14 from 72, 19.4%; D Bridgwater, 15 from 83, 18.1%; G Tormey, 4 from 23, 17.4%; R Johnson, 3 from 22, 13.6%; S Curran, 4 from 30, 13.3%.

FAKENHAM

THUNDERER
12.50 Java Shrine. 1.20 Le Teteu. 1.55 Speaker Weatherill. 2.30 Holy Wanderer. 3.00 Sophie May. 3.30 Lookingforarainbow.

Newmarket Correspondent: 1.20 LE TETEU (nap). 1.55 Romany Creek. 3.30 Lookingforarainbow.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.50 FITZWILLIAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,733: 2m) (10 runners)

1 F2-0 LUCY TUFTY 17F (G) J Pearce 5-11-13 R Dunwoody
2 U-13 ROYAL STANDARD 9 (V,BF,S) P Rich 9-11-13 M Griffiths (7)
3 -230 ELITE JUSTICE 8 (B,G) S Gollings 4-11-12 K Gaule
4 -356 ALOSAILI 28 (D,F,G) J Cullinan 9-11-1 J Titley
5 -006 PHARLY REEF 13 D Burchell 4-10-11 A Dobbin
6 P-33 KATBALLOU 16 K Wingrove 7-10-5 J Ryan
7 000P JAVA SHRINE 15 (B,D,F) J Tuck 5-10-4 R Bellamy
8 F-60 RUTH'S GAMBLE 25 (V,CD,G) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-0 D Leahy
9 00/5 COSMIC STAR 7 (B) P Winkworth 6-10-0 J R Kavanagh
10 P-0P JUST A BEAU 25 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0 Sophie Mitchell (5)

2-1 Royal Standard, 7-2 Lucy Tufty, 4-1 Elite Justice, 7-1 Katballou, 10-1 Pharly Reef, Alosaili, 14-1 Java Shrine, 16-1 others.

1.20 NEW SMALLER SIZE EDP JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,720: 2m) (9)

1 51 FIJON 26 (D,G) J Pearce 10-13 V Smith
2 2P BRIGHT ECLIPSE 13 (B) Miss K Whitehouse 10-12 T Jenks
3 DESERT MOUNTAIN 206F N Callaghan 10-12 J F Titley
4 FOREST BOY 197F J Bosley 10-12 G Hogan (3)
5 HAUTE CUISINE 50F R Williams 10-12 K Gaule
6 25 LE TETEU 13 Bob Jones 10-12 R Dunwoody
7 MAGIC ROLE 45F J Jenkins 10-12 N Egan (7)
8 ROYAL ACTION 29F J Banks 10-12 J R Kavanagh
9 POETRY 110F M Tompkins 10-7 A Dobbin

9-4 Poetry, 3-1 Royal Action, 5-1 Fijon, Le Teteu, 8-1 Bright Eclipse, 12-1 Forest Boy, 14-1 Magic Role, 16-1 others.

1.55 STEPHENSON SMART HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,308: 3m 110yd) (7)

1 P-24 ROMANY CREEK 33 (D,F,G,S) J Pearce 7-12-0 R Dunwoody
2 62-0 DONT TELL THE WIFE 15 (CD,G,S) C Egerton 10-11-13 J A McCarthy
3 111- SPEAKER WEATHERILL 229 (F,G) O Brennan 7-11-6 M Brennan
4 5-36 PATS MINSTREL 12 (F,G,S) R Champion 11-11-6 A Dobbin
5 P24- GOOD OLD CHIPS 298P J Whyte 9-10-0 J R Kavanagh
6 /0-P VICTORY GATE 25 (G) Mrs L Jewell 11-10-0 D Leahy
7 4235 JOKER JACK 2 (F,S) R Dean 11-10-0 G Hogan (3)

7-4 Speaker Weatherill, 5-2 Dont Tell The Wife, 3-1 Romany Creek, 8-1 Pats Minstrel, 20-1 Good Old Chips, Victory Gate, Joker Jack.

2.30 L L FIRTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,308: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 FD33 HOLY WANDERER 63 (BF,F,G) T George 7-12-0 G Hogan (3)
2 -231 THE LANCER 9 (D,S) D Gandolfo 7-11-8 (5ex) R Dunwoody
3 34-U WINSPIT 6 (D,F,S) R Alner 6-11-4 J R Kavanagh
4 4-35 DR ROCKET 5 (B,D,F,G,S) R Dickin 11-11-4 C Llewellyn
5 U1-P THE MINISTER 29 (D,BF,F) R Champion 7-11-0 A Dobbin
6 446/ RUSTIC GENT 595 (V,D,F,S) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-10 D Leahy
7 P-03 NATIONAL FLAG 17 (S) K Burke 6-10-4 A Larnach
8 12F5 CIRCULATION 15 (V,D,F,G,S) D McCain 10-10-2 D Walsh (3)
9 04P- SOUNDS GOLDEN 373 J Whyte 8-10-0 Mr R Wakley (7)

2-1 The Lancer, 7-2 Holy Wanderer, 5-1 Winspit, 6-1 Dr Rocket, 7-1 The Minister, National Flag, 12-1 Circulation, 20-1 others.

3.00 COTTESMORE MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (£3,353: 2m 5f 110yd) (6)

1 11P- JASILU 208 (B,G) K Bailey 6-11-2 C Llewellyn
2 13-4 MISTRESS ROSIE 10 (F,S) M Hill 9-10-10 J R Kavanagh
3 P-46 PENNANT COTTAGE 36 (B,S) Miss K Whitehouse 8-10-10 T Jenks
4 0-50 PRIZE MATCH 7 (S) J Tuck 7-10-10 R Bellamy
5 313F SCAMALLACH 28 (B,F) J Jenkins 6-10-10 R Dunwoody
6 -204 SOPHIE MAY 17 (F,S) G L Moore 5-10-10 A Dobbin

2-1 Sophie May, 5-2 Scamallach, 7-2 Jasilu, 5-1 Mistress Rosie, 10-1 Prize Match, 12-1 Pennant Cottage.

3.30 FAKENHAM RACECOURSE CARAVAN SITE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,386: 2m 4f) (10)

1 4-12 WADADA 89 (D,BF,F,G) D Burchell 5-12-0 J Prior (7)
2 -254 BARFORD SOVEREIGN 24 (D,BF,F) J Fanshawe 4-11-12 A Dobbin
3 5142 PAIR OF JACKS 15 (C,F,G) G L Moore 6-11-0 R Dunwoody
4 32-3 PEDALTOTHEMETAL 7 P Mitchell 4-10-12 D Walsh (3)
5 0/P- AJDAR 143F (C,G) O Brennan 5-10-10 M Brennan
6 0432 SHERS DELIGHT 8 (V,C,F,G) O Brennan 6-10-9 DOUBTFUL
7 6223 ABLE PLAYER 5 (D,F,G,S) K Drewry 9-10-8 M Sharratt
8 0/5P LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 13 Bob Jones 8-10-5 V Smith
9 0-00 MAGOBELIA 16 (G,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-10-3 K Gaule
10 0-56 DURSHAN 7 (B,D,G) J Jenkins 7-10-0 J R Kavanagh

7-2 Wadada, 4-1 Pedaltothemetal, Barford Sovereign, 5-1 Pair Of Jacks, 8-1 Able Player, Lookingforarainbow, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Gandolfo, 5 winners from 8 runners, 62.5%; O Brennan, 12 from 29, 41.4%; J Jenkins, 9 from 44, 20.5%; K Bailey, 5 from 26, 19.2%; M Tompkins, 5 from 28, 17.9%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%; T Jenks, 3 from 10, 30.0%; Martin Brennan, 11 from 40, 27.5%; J A McCarthy, 3 from 11, 27.3%. Only qualifiers.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Leicester

Going: good

1.00 (2m hdle) 1, Potter's Gale (A Maguire, 5-4 fav); 2, Pip's Dream (14-1); 3, Melstock Meggie (9-2). 10 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £12.80. Trio: £4.80. CSF: £18.33.

1.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Slingsby (R Dunwoody, 4-5 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Brideparck Rose (7-1); 3, Curragh Peter (50-1). 8 ran. NR: Ramstown Lad. 2l, 24l. N Gaselee. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.50, £4.20. DF: £9.40. Trio: £49.00. CSF: £7.18.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Fleet Cadet (G Supple, 4-1); 2, Beechfield Flyer (20-1); 3, Parish Walk (7-2). Fenian Court 11-4 fav. 8 ran. 4l, 2l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.40; £1.80, £2.60, £1.50. DF: £31.20. CSF: £61.02.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Lord Of The West (A Maguire, 2-1 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Philip's Woody (13-2); 3, Well Briefed (9-1). 5 ran. 3½l, 7l. J J O'Neill. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £3.00. DF: £7.10. CSF: £12.62.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Wessel Street (N Williamson, 4-1); 2, Diwali Dancer (7-2); 3, Lord McMurrough (7-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: Garaybe. 4l, 9l. K Morgan. Tote: £6.20; £2.80, £1.80. DF: £13.50. CSF: £17.45. Tricast: £29.28.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Circus Line (M A Fitzgerald, 13-8 fav); 2, Kinnawi (7-1); 3, Shepherds Rest (16-1). 10 ran. 5l, 7l. M W Easterby. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £2.20, £4.20. DF: £14.10. CSF: £13.59. Tricast: £129.36.
Placepot: £57.70. Quadpot: £58.70.

Hexham

Going: good

12.50 (3m hdle) 1, Hudson Bay Trader (Miss P Robson, 10-1); 2, Ballindoo (5-1); 3, Belle Rose (3-1 fav). 12 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. P Beaumont. Tote: £4.10; £1.40, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £17.80. Trio: £43.00. CSF: £58.89. Tricast: £177.31.

1.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Monymoss (R Guest, 9-1); 2, Seeking Gold (8-1); 3, Bold Account (10-1). Slotamatique 7-4 fav. 12 ran. 3½l, 4l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £10.50; £1.60, £2.40, £2.60. DF: £24.30. Trio: £24.60. CSF: £62.99. Tricast: £594.24.

1.50 (2m hdle) 1, Robsera (R Garritty, 7-2); 2, Willy Star (11-10 fav); 3, Over Stated (20-1). 17 ran. 2l, ¾l. J Quinn. Tote: £4.00; £1.00, £3.10, £11.20. DF: £5.00. Trio: £33.90. CSF: £8.96.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Shining Edge (R Garritty, 9-2); 2, Anabranch (6-5 fav); 3, Colorful Ambition (6-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 8l. T Easterby. Tote: £3.50; £2.40, £1.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £11.00.

2.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Daring Past (R Garritty, 8-11 fav); 2, Cush Supreme (14-1); 3, Bonny Johnny (13-2). 10 ran. 6l, 4l. M Hammond. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.00, £3.00. DF: £16.70. Trio: £11.50. CSF: £12.98.

3.20 (3m hdle) 1, Menshaar (R Garritty, 6-1); 2, Young Kenny (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Adib (20-1). Clare Maid 2-1 jt-fav. 17 ran. NR: Establish. 3l, 3½l. L Lungo. Tote: £7.40; £2.30, £2.90, £6.80. DF: £15.80. Trio: £125.70. CSF: £21.16.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,676.88 carried forward to Sandown Park today).
Placepot: £31.60. Quadpot: £6.40.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (1m) 1, Bon Secret (D Holland, 12-1); 2, Waikiki Beach (2-1 fav); 3, Sip Jig (8-1). 12 ran. 5l, 1l. T Naughton. Tote: £23.00; £3.00, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £25.30. Trio: £78.30. CSF: £32.00.

12.40 (7f) 1, Apollo Red (Candy Morris, 7-1); 2, Star Talent (8-1); 3, Bargash (18-1). Indiahra 4-1 fav. 12 ran. 2½l, nk. A Moore. Tote: £9.50; £2.80, £2.80, £4.30. DF: £48.70. Trio: £271.50 (part won; pool of £344.21 carried forward to 2.20 Taunton today). CSF: £59.20. Tricast: £574.95.

1.10 (1m 2f) 1, Angel Face (Mr A Evans, 4-1 fav); 2, Montone (6-1); 3, Don't Drop Bombs (9-1). 14 ran. 3l, 5l. P Evans. Tote: £4.20; £1.70, £2.70, £2.90. DF: £12.50. Trio: £19.60. CSF: £27.93. Tricast: £192.45.

1.40 (1m) 1, Mr Nevermind (S Whitworth, 6-4 fav); 2, Mogin (20-1); 3, Zelaya (25-1). 12 ran. 4l, 2l. G L Moore. Tote: £2.40; £1.20, £5.90, £4.40. DF: £28.50. Trio: £254.20 (part won; pool of £107.41 carried forward to 2.20 Taunton today). CSF: £30.96.

2.10 (1m) 1, Cee-N-K (D Holland, 5-1); 2, Chief Predator (13-2); 3, Greenwich Fore (5-1). Barnwood Crackers 9-2 jt-fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, ½l. M Johnston. Tote: £5.50; £1.90, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £21.60. Trio: £29.10. CSF: £35.82. Tricast: £159.70.

2.40 (2m) 1, Wottashambles (D Holland, 11-1); 2, Broughtons Formula (3-1 fav); 3, Matthias Mystique (8-1). 12 ran. 3½l, 1l. L Montague Hall. Tote: £18.00; £2.00, £1.70, £3.20. DF: £27.80. Trio: £123.00. CSF: £44.31. Tricast: £210.12.

3.10 (7f) 1, Milroy (M Wigham, 10-11 fav); 2, Bold Spring (7-1); 3, Castles Burning (8-1). 8 ran. 2l, 1½l. P Kelleway. Tote: £1.80; £1.70, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £6.40. CSF: £7.82.

3.40 (7f) 1, Greatest (D Holland, 5-1); 2, Dark Menace (14-1); 3, Hawaii Storm (8-1). The Barnsley Belle 9-2 fav. 12 ran. Sh hd, 8l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £8.10; £2.00, £9.90, £2.50. DF: £100.00. Trio: £168.90. CSF: £72.64. Tricast: £412.43.
Placepot: £130.30. Quadpot: £7.70.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
SANDOWN 101 201
FAKENHAM 102 202
TAUNTON 103 203
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Welsh weights to rise

THE weights for the Coral Welsh National are set to rise after Couldnt Be Better, Nahthen Lad and Algan were all withdrawn at yesterday's forfeit stage. With doubts over the participation of The Grey Monk and Lo Stregone, Coral now bets: 4-1 Belmont King, 8-1 Parsons Boy, St Mellion Fairway, 10-1 Suny Bay, 12-1 Full Of Oats, Greenhil Tare Away, 14-1 others. The firm also offers 4-1 The Grey Monk with a run, and 7-1 Lo Stregone with a run.

Four-timer for Holland

DARRYLL HOLLAND completed a 5,615-1 four-timer at Lingfield Park yesterday before taking a well-deserved holiday in Gran Canaria. His winners at the Surrey course were Bon Secret (12-1), Cee-N-K (5-1), Wottashambles (11-1) and Greatest (5-1).

Holland said: "I have only ever ridden one other four-timer — at Yarmouth. I am off to the sun tomorrow, but I will be back in time to ride here on December 30."

SWIMMING

Sprinters hoping to cash in

SWIMMERS have long raced for money on the Continent, but never at a leading championship, at which success has been measured in medals (Craig Lord writes). All that will end over the next four days in Rostock, Germany, as DM 380,000 (about £150,000) is handed to the winners at the inaugural European sprint and short-course championships.

The combination of money and a "fast" pool should make for close, quick racing of the kind that the European Swimming League will need to justify the introduction of the event to a cluttered calendar.

The league decided to replace the European sprint championships, which were restricted to races over 50 and 100 metres, with a wider short-course programme to popularise its winter showcase event. However, initial optimism over the numbers of nations and swimmers entering the event has been tempered.

When 28 nations entered more than 300 swimmers in early October, there was much self-congratulation. The number of nations is now up to 30, but the number of competitors has fallen to 250. Absentees include Alexander Popov, Michelle Smith, Franziska van Almsick and others who took lengthy breaks after the Olympic Games.

Great Britain's original 39-strong entry is down to a third of that. The country's previous medal-winners at the main short-course championships, such as Mark Foster, Neil Willey and Ian Wilson, are among the favourites to enjoy a welcome pay-day.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cup: Cardiff v Bristol City (2.0)
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Buxton v Grantham (7.30).

RUGBY UNION
CLUB MATCHES: Edinburgh Academicals v Heriot's FP (7.0); Watsonians v Stewart's Melville FP (6.30).

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: 7-Up Trophy: Leopards v Crystal Palace (7.0)
ICE HOCKEY: Olympic qualifying match:

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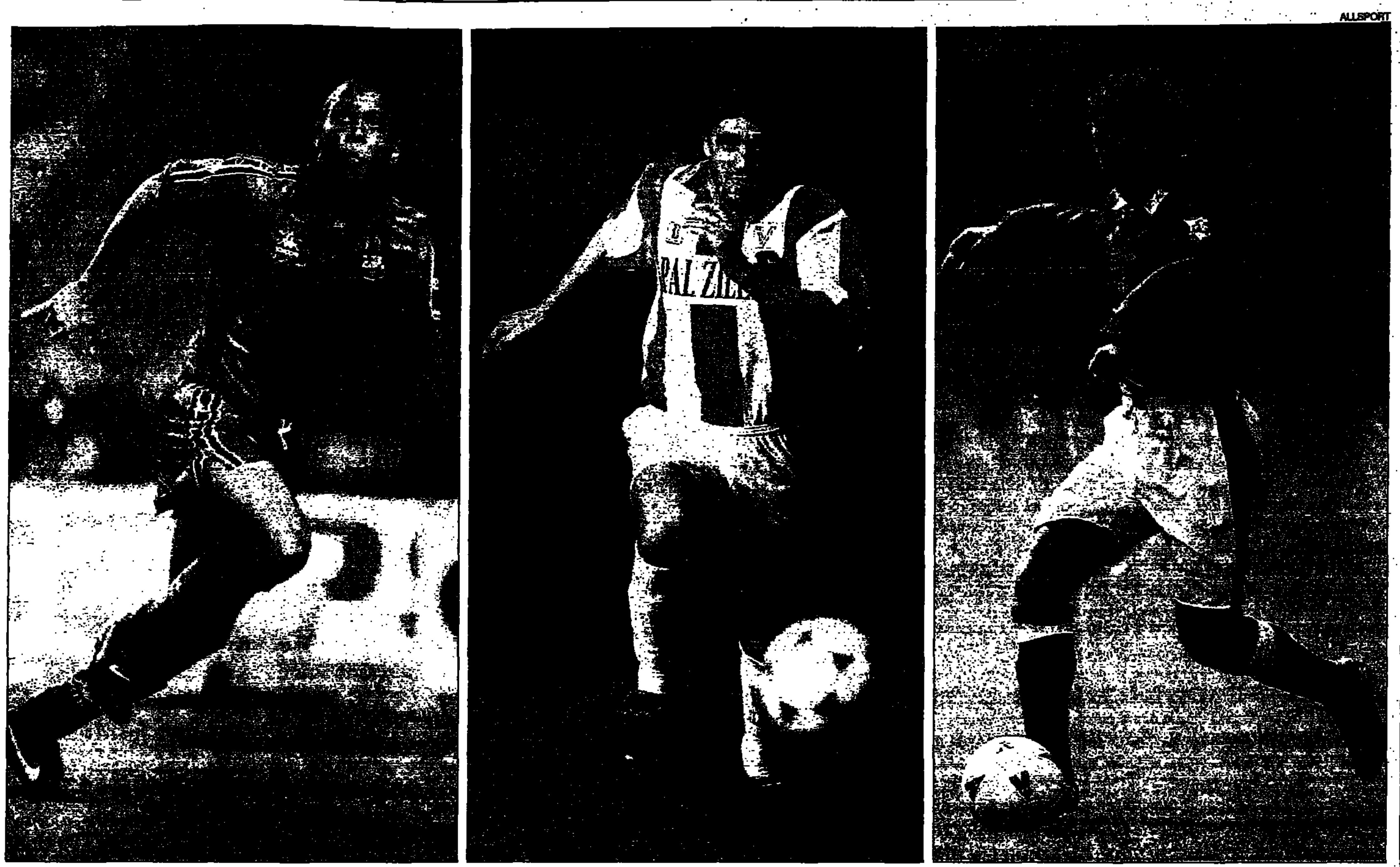
Unfashionable teams make the running while the giants falter

ALLSPORT



Three of the world's best: from the left, Ronaldo, of Barcelona, Otero, of Vicenza, and Giggs, of Manchester United. Ronaldo was yesterday reported to have signed a new deal worth £2.3 million a year

Lukewarm verdict on European leagues

Where is the best football in Europe being played?

Brian Glanville on the influx of foreign talent

Last Sunday, Florin Raducioiu, the Romania international striker, went on for West Ham at Upton Park as a substitute against Manchester United, ran United ragged down the left and scored a dramatic goal. A couple of weeks earlier, he had turned up in Brescia to make a token appearance for military service. (He married an Italian and, thus, obtained the nationality.)

Asked how he found English football, he said that he much admired it, but that, of course, it could not be compared with the Italian *campionato*. The fact is, however, that at present, each European league is disappointingly mediocre, each tournament has giants who are faltering, leaving less fashionable teams to make the running. In England, it is Wimbledon; in Italy, Vicenza.

'Liverpool have seemed the great hope'

The huge sums of money that satellite television has poured into the Premiership means that, for the first time, English clubs can compete with the Italians for the game's best players, though no club in either country has been able to beat Barcelona for the most brilliant young player in the game, Ronaldo, of Brazil. Yesterday he was reported to have signed a new deal, raising his annual salary to 500 million pesetas (£2.3 million). Any club wanting to sign him will probably have to pay about ten billion pesetas (£50 million).

But this influx of foreign talent has failed, disappointingly so far, to raise the general standard of our football. Sandro Mazzola, once a great striker for Internazionale and Italy, believes we are in transition, somewhere between the more physical British style and the more subtle approach of the foreign aces.

That may be true, but the majority of the Premiership games one sees are so prosaic, that there is a temptation to feel that its young millionaires are taking money under false pretences. For where can one find a truly outstanding team?

Arsenal's morale keeps getting them through, but they are largely predictable and their defence can look clumsy. Liverpool have seemed the great hope, yet they can crash at Blackburn Rovers and slump at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

Manchester United, despite the tactical aberrations of Alex Ferguson, have somehow reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup and have an excellent chance of progessing against FC Porto in March. With two players of the flair and invention of Giggs and Cantona, anything is possible, but too many of Ferguson's buys — Poborsky and Cruyff, for example — seem ill-conceived.

Last Sunday, at his most morose, Ferguson damned his tired team's performance at West Ham, and would not even acknowledge as a fine goal United's second, the product of a glorious passing move that swept the ball from left to right, then back again for Beckham to score.

Newcastle United have had sporadically distinguished service from Ginola and Albert, but Asprilla remains the mysterious object. Chelsea, now glittering with leading foreign players lured by London, are yet no more consistent than the Chelsea of old, almost trapped by their history. Gullit remains a majestic figure, Zola, Di Matteo, Vialli, Leboeuf and Petrescu have ability in space ... yet look what happened at Leeds and Liverpool?

But what is to be said of Italian football where AC Milan, the champions, are already out of every significant competition? How Fabio Capello, who marvels at their troubles, must privately be smiling. Milan humiliated him last season, when they crazily decreed that he would have a new contract only if the club won either the league or the Uefa Cup.

Capello, a proud man, agreed to manage Parma, then decided on Real Madrid, who, despite their colossal debts, not only found the money to pay him, but to buy the two dazzling Slavs, Suker and Mijatovic. Both scored in the 2-0 win against Barcelona last weekend.

Milan have lost recently to little Piacenza in the league and to modest Rosenborg, of Norway, at home in the European Cup Champions' League. It was no surprise when they got rid of their hapless Uruguayan manager, Oscar Washington Tabarez, though some players, notably Paolo Maldini, felt he had been harshly treated and resented the implication that Milan would flourish "only if we're kicked in the seat".

Arrigo Sacchi has returned, presumably to do something of the sort, though Maldini says, ominously, he is more concerned for Tabarez than happy to see Sacchi back. If Sacchi, never a player, insists "you don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey", it recalls Roy Campbell's lines: "They use the snaffle and the bit all right, but where's the bloody horse?" It does not look as if Sacchi's old sparring partner, Roberto Baggio, will last much longer.

'The Ajax team has gone into freefall'

Juventus remain in the European Cup as favourites, and have twice dealt, majestically, with Manchester United. Yet, though they beat Inter soundly in the League, they subsequently lost 3-0 at home to them in the Italian Cup. Soon after which, Inter's defence was torn to bits by Milan in the derby match and only Milan's profligate finishing saved Inter from a beating. A fortunate penalty rescued Inter that night and they have been similarly aided in their recent games against Cagliari and Vicenza.

Give Vicenza and their able young manager, Guidolin, their due. They are supremely well organised, have an exceptional midfield player in the bald Di Carlo, and two lively strikers in Murgita and Otero, the Uruguayan. Yet this is no super team.

Mazzola, once so elegant himself, deplores the decline of the creative player in Italian football; as did Zola when he arrived at Chelsea from a Parma team that now misses him severely.

Ajax, who seemed to be showing everyone the way, have gone into freefall since losing the European Cup final last May. Davids and Reiziger, who subsequently joined Milan, have had a depressing season. German football is hardly exciting, with Jürgen Klinsmann threatening to leave a Bayern Munich team that he regards as excessively defensive.

As things stand, Barcelona and Real Madrid seem out on their own. Spain have the most quarter-finalists in the three European competitons: four. The two biggest clubs — neither, ironically, in the European Cup — are surely, at present, Europe's best, even if Bobby Robson's tenure at Barcelona may seem to be under threat.

Can there somehow be an inverse ratio between money and quality? Earnings and entertainment? Football has never been so popular, but sometimes you wonder why. Perhaps the answer to the lack of quality is that there is simply far too much of it. Players, after all, are not machines.

THE LEADERS IN THE NEW EUROPEAN ORDER

ENGLAND

Champions: Manchester United

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	16	35
Wimbledon	16	9	4	3	29	17	31
Liverpool	16	9	4	3	26	14	31
Newcastle United	16	9	3	4	26	17	30
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Manchester United	16	7	6	3	31	24	27

ITALY

Champions: Juventus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vicenza	12	6	4	2	21	12	22
Juventus	11	6	4	1	13	7	22
Internazionale	12	5	6	1	16	11	21
Bologna	12	6	2	4	20	16	20
Napoli	12	5	5	2	17	16	20
Fiorentina	12	4	6	2	19	14	18

FRANCE

Champions: Auxerre

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Monaco	21	12	6	3	36	16	42
Paris Saint-Germain	21	12	6	3	34	15	42
Bastia	21	10	6	5	28	22	36
Auxerre	21	9	8	4	28	13	35
Bordeaux	21	9	7	5	30	23	34
Strasbourg	21	11	1	9	27	29	34

SPAIN

Champions: Atlético Madrid

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	16	11	5	0	32	12	38
Deportivo La Coruña	16	10	6	0	24	7	36
Barcelona	16	10	4	2	46	21	34
Real Betis	16	9	5	2	33	14	32
Atlético Madrid	16	8	4	4	27	18	28
Real Sociedad	16	8	3	5	22	19	27

HOLLAND

Champions: Ajax

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	19	14	3	2	58	14	45
Feyenoord	18	12	3	3	33	20	39
Twente Enschede	19	11	4	4	30	15	37
Vitesse Arnhem	19	9	5	5	31	22	32
Roda JC Kerkrade	18	8	6	4	21	21	30
Ajax	19	7	9	3	24	17	30

GERMANY

Champions: Borussia Dortmund

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	17	10	6	1	27	14	36
Borussia Dortmund	17	10	4	3	36	18	34
Bayer Leverkusen	17	10	4	3	38	22	34
VfB Stuttgart	17	9	4	4	39	19	31
SC Karlsruhe	17	8	4	5	30	20	28
VfL Bochum	16	7	6	3	23	21	27

FOOTBALL

Rovers reject Eriksson rumours

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

BLACKBURN Rovers dismissed reports yesterday that Sven Goran Eriksson, the Swedish coach of Sampdoria, the Italian club, had already signed a five-year, £5 million contract to join them in the summer. Eriksson also failed to confirm them, but added: "English is the second language in Sweden, so I wouldn't have any problems."

While the reports, in both *Corriere dello Sport* and *Tuttosport*, are premature, there seems little doubt that Eriksson is high on Blackburn's list of possible permanent replacements for the long departed Ray Harford. Although, when rumours first connected him to Rovers, Eriksson insisted that he would see out his contract with Sampdoria, which expires in the summer, that is unlikely to prove a problem. With Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager, having considerable success in reviving their season, Blackburn may decide that they can afford to wait until then for a new permanent manager to arrive.

Nevio Scala appeared to throw his hat into the ring yesterday. The former Parma coach, who guided the unfashionable Italian club to the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1993 and the Uefa Cup in 1995 before leaving last summer, has the advantage of being available immediately. "I could soon be coaching a foreign side," he said.

Alan Shearer, the Newcastle United and England striker, joins Ronaldo, of Barcelona, and George Weah, of AC Milan, on the shortlist — drawn up by 120 national coaches — of three players in contention for the Fifa Player of the Year award.

Mark Hughes is preparing for a busy weekend, playing for Wales against Turkey in a World Cup qualifying tie at the National Stadium, Cardiff, on Saturday and then appearing for Chelsea in their FA Carling Premiership match at Sunderland on Sunday. Hughes, who missed Wales' last game, the 7-1 defeat by Holland in Eindhoven, is hoping to do so, despite having six stitches in a leg wound sustained in a tackle by Brian Deane, the Leeds United striker, last week.

Nine years ago, Hughes played for Wales in Czechoslovakia and then for Bayern Munich in Germany later that evening. "Twice in a day was tough, sheer agony," he said. "I came out for the second half with Bayern feeling absolutely shattered. So twice in two days should not be a problem."

Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, has been ruled out for up to six weeks and faces an operation on Monday after being told his damaged ankle will not respond to treatment.

Bjorn Tore Kvarme, 24, the Norway defender, is set to join Liverpool at the end of the year, when his contract with Rosenborg expires. Liverpool will not have to pay a fee because of the Bosman ruling.

Scotland supporters who were in Tallinn on October 9 for the World Cup tie with Estonia that was abandoned because the home side did not turn up, will be given free entry when the game is played in Monaco on February 11.

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RUGBY UNION

Weary Springboks determined to maintain record

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA, tired, cold and four days away from their first rest since February, will field an unchanged XV against Wales in Cardiff on Sunday, the thirteenth international of an exceptional year for the holders of the Webb Ellis trophy.

That they can play the same team that has defeated Argentina and France in four internationals over the past five weeks is a minor miracle. They have found it hard to resist the conclusion that the tour proper ended in Paris last Saturday — indeed eight members of the tour party have already returned home — and that Wales is an appendage, a gesture made to celebrate the last season of the old Arms Park stadium.

Yet, as professional sportsmen, they accept that there is a job to be done: their preparation has been relaxed this week — chilly weather has driven most of them off the golf course — but they do not intend to let slip their unbeaten international record on tour. "Everyone is gunning for you when you are world champions," André Markgraaff, the coach, said.

He acknowledged that his leading players have been involved in too many games this season — some will have chalked up 50 appearances — but believes that adjustments have to involve not so much the international programme, as the level just below. "I foresee a situation in the professional era where you have more internationals — after all, that's where the money comes from to pay players — but that cutbacks will be made in provincial rugby," Markgraaff said.

"We may have to make sure that players don't appear in the minor provincial games and that selection in the Super 12 is more careful. We must make sure that all our players are fit and available for the 1999 World Cup."

The same exercise begins in London today when representatives of the Rugby Football Union, its leading clubs and competition chairmen meet to discuss the structured season of the future. English administrators will try to visualise a season in which the leading players appear in no more than 35 games.

Of that number, eight weekends will be given over to internationals — four to the five nations' championship and three or four to the pre-Christmas period. Already England contemplate two games against the touring New Zealanders next season, one of which may be played in the north rather than at Twickenham, and they already have a date with Australia pencilled in. The criterion is said to be the short tours that the home unions make overseas, during which they customarily play a two-match international series; now they seek to replicate that situation at home.

Meanwhile Argentina, the third of England's opponents within the past four weeks, find space on the right wing for Gonzalo Camardon in their tour finale at Twickenham on Saturday. Camardon, who made his first international appearance against England in 1990 as scrum half to the ageing Hugo Porta, has stuggled throughout the tour to recover from a shoulder injury suffered in the first international against South Africa in Buenos Aires on November 9.

This will be his first appearance since then and it is testimony to his all-round skills that he is preferred to the unfortunate Facundo Soler. Camardon, 26 next week, has played for Argentina in every position behind the scrum, mostly recently at centre during the pan-American tournament in September and against South Africa. Soler must be content with a place among the replacements, though José-Luis Cilley, whose goalkicking has won matches for his country before, was so out of touch in the 22-17 defeat by England A in Northampton on Tuesday that there is no place for him at all.

Pedro Sporleder, who had to leave the tour at the halfway stage to take professional examinations in New York, rejoins his perennial partner, German Llanes, in the second row in a XV showing five changes from that beaten 44-21 by South Africa four weeks ago.

It will be their 29th game in tandem but the front row is remodelled in the absence of Federico Méndez, now hooking for Bath. Carlos Promanzio is his replacement, with Mauricio Reggiardo, of Castres, at prop.

The Pilkington Cup tie between Newbury and Lydney, scheduled for Saturday, has been postponed because the bacterial infection that is afflicting Newbury players has claimed a ninth victim in Andy Duke, the lock forward, who was taken ill on Tuesday.

ARGENTINA (v England, Saturday): E Jurado (Jockey Rosario); G Camardon (Alumni), E Simone (Liceo Naval), L Arbizu (Belgrano, captain), D Albanese (SIC); G Quesada (Hindu), N Fernandez (Miranda Hindu); R Grau (Liceo), C Promanzio (Duendes), M Reggiardo (Castres), R Martin (SIC), G Llanes (La Plata), P Sporleder (Curupayti), P Camerlinckx (Regatas Bella Vista), P Bouza (Atlético Rosario). Replacements: C Barrea (Cordoba), F Garcia (Alumni), F Soler (Tala), M Scelzo (Banco Hipotecario), O Hasan Jalil (Gimnasia), R Perez (Duendes).

SOUTH AFRICA (v Wales, Sunday): A Joubert (Natal); J Small (Natal), J Mulder (Transvaal), H le Roux (Transvaal), J Olivier (Northern Transvaal); H Honiball (Natal), J van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); D Theron (Griqualand West), J Dalton (Transvaal), A Garvey (Natal), R Kruger (Northern Transvaal), J Wiese (Transvaal), M Andrews (Natal), A Venter (Free State), G Teichmann (Natal, captain). Replacements: K Putt (Natal), A Snyman (Northern Transvaal), W Fyvie (Natal), F van Heerden (Western Province), T van der Linde (Western Province), H Tromp (Northern Transvaal).

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Matsura, of Ardingly, left, leaves his two opponents behind in the Independent Schools Tournament yesterday

Wolverhampton regain schools title

By John Goodbody

WOLVERHAMPTON GS are unusually proficient at six-a-side football competitions. In the Independent Schools Tournament at Forest, East London, yesterday, they took the title again by beating Bury GS 2-0 with a display of rare athleticism and composed skill.

Winners in 1994, they lost the final to Hampton last year but yesterday took the title without conceding a goal in the knockout stages, yet they lost their opening qualifying game 1-0 in the morning to Bradfield and conceded goals to both Alleyns and Aldenham while finishing second in their group to reach the last 16. Johnny Johnson, the master in charge of football at Wolverhampton, said: "We understand the tactics of sixes. Anyone who tries to play the strategy of 11-a-side football with six players is going to lose. It is a different game."

This is a flourishing competition. Founded by Brentwood in 1957 to celebrate the centenary of the school, it has now reached saturation point with 32 schools, almost all of whom play football as their main winter sport, taking part.

It is as many as can be accommodated in a day-long tournament and with a simple format. This year, all the schools played at least one game in the afternoon's plate tournament, extended to the teams who finished third and fourth in their preliminary groups. Hampton beat John Lyon 1-0 in the plate final.

In the main competition, many of the favourites were beaten. Manchester GS, with Lee, the England Under-17 wicketkeeper in goal, have already reached the semi-final of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup in 11-a-side football this term. However, they lost on penalties to Forest. Ardingly who, together with Manchester GS were also unbeaten in the same group, lost on penalties to Lancing, who in turn were beaten by Wolverhampton in the quarter-finals.

Forest, the last southern team in the competition, lost to Bury 2-1 in the semi-final and Wolverhampton defeated Bolton 1-0 in the other semi-final.

Unlike last year, Wolverhampton were composed in the final. In Sedgemore, playing in the tournament for the third successive year, they had a penetrative forward, while Robinson shuttled energetically between attack and defence.

Sedgemore converted a first-half penalty and added a second goal from open play.

Results, page 42

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan displays new-found patience

From Phil Yates in Osnabruck

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, whose undisciplined approach at the German Open last season left a lot to be desired, continued to show a new maturity when he set up a quarter-final against Stephen Hendry here yesterday.

O'Sullivan required only 88 minutes to beat Andy Hicks 5-1, compiling breaks of 42, 58, 40 and 66. However, more significant than his potting was the admirable patience he showed when the situation called for discretion.

Twelve months ago, at the cavernous Frankfurt Messe, O'Sullivan treated his opponent, and the game, with scant respect as he suffered a surprise 5-3 defeat by Mark King, one of five first-round eliminations in ten world-ranking events during a season that saw him fall from third to eighth in the standings.

"I didn't have any targets, I was doing the wrong things and my form collapsed," O'Sullivan said. "I decided things had to change and now I've got one thing on my mind — to be world champion and world No 1."

Although still plagued by inconsistency — he lost in the first round of the United Kingdom championship — he has captured the Asian Classic title.

The unshakeable self-belief that O'Sullivan exhibited on turning professional in 1992 has also returned. "I believe I can beat anyone and I've got to put pressure on Stephen and try to force him off the top, like he did to Steve Davis," O'Sullivan said.

That was in May 1990, when Hendry won the first of his six world titles and displaced Davis at the head of the rankings. Since then, snooker's most potent force of the 1980s has been in gradual decline and yesterday Davis's last hope of winning a tournament this year disappeared when he lost 5-3 to Nigel Bond.

Davis put together a vintage 121 clearance and led 3-1 at the mid-session interval, but Bond drew level with runs of 110 and 109, took the seventh frame on the pink and comfortably added the eighth.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington sign Vagana

By Our Sports Staff

WARRINGTON yesterday signed Nigel Vagana, the utility back who played for Western Samoa in the World Cup, from Auckland Warriors. Vagana, 21, is expected take over the role of stand-off half at Wilderspool.

Alex Murphy, the Warrington director of football, said: "Nigel is one of the hottest properties in the southern hemisphere and has the potential to be a big hit in the Super League. Gone are the days when we brought mediocre players to Wilderspool and it's a big bonus to sneak him out of New Zealand."

Gary Hetherington, the Leeds chief executive, has signed three players from Sheffield Eagles, his former club. Dean Lawford, the hooker, and the scrum-half, Ryan Sheridan, signed yesterday and the back row forward, Anthony Farrell, an England international, will do so today.

Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, said: "Gary has talked highly of these three players and, when they became available, I did some homework and we agreed that we should sign them."

Lawford and Sheridan, a Great Britain and Under-21 international, said that the presence of Hetherington at Headingley was not the main reason they chose to move up the M1. "When a big club like Leeds comes in for you, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and you take it," Sheridan said.

The deal, which comes a fortnight after Leeds signed the New Zealand international centre, Richie Blackmore, from Auckland and Paul Sterling, the Hull winger, is expected to cost Leeds close to £200,000.

Sheffield announced their second Australian signing in three days yesterday with the capture of Rod Doyle, the South Queensland Crushers loose forward. Doyle, 27, who played first-grade rugby for Manley at 19, joins the former North Queensland Cowboys prop, Steve Edmed, at the Don Valley Stadium.

Phil Larder, the Sheffield coach, said: "Rod is top quality and comes highly recommended by Gary Grienke and Daryl Van de Velde. He has good ball skills and top quality defence and I look on him as giving us an extra dimension to our attacking play."

Colin Myler, the former managing director and editor of the Daily Mirror and Sunday Mirror newspapers, has been appointed the first chief executive of Rugby League (Europe), the marketing organisation set up by the 12 Super League clubs. Myler, 44, will take up his three-year appointment on January 1.

BOWLS

England ring changes for home series

THERE are five newcomers in the England team that will defend the women's home international title in March. Catherine Anton, Yvonne Lyons, Madelaine Ward, Mandy Jacklin and Di Gray have been brought into the team, while Gloria Thomas is recalled and Beryl Alderson, normally a No 3, will skip. There is no place for Wendy Line, the runner-up in the world outdoor singles championship last August, or for Sandy Hazell, the national indoor singles champion.

TEAM: Rink 1: D Wilson (Boston), C Anton (Peterborough), J Coulson (York), M Steele (Egham). Rink 2: Y Lyons (Riverain), M Ward (County Arts), G Thomas (West Cornwall), M Price (Desborough). Rink 3: L Jarman (Cambridge Chesterton), M Jacklin (Peterborough), E Bessell (Yeovil), B Alderson (Thornaby). Rink 4: K Hawes (Cherwell), N Edwards (British Cellophane), L Thelwell (Handy Cross), N Shaw (Thornaby). Rink 5: S Rickman (King George), D Gray (Taunton), J Thomas (Nottingham), D Hankin (Egham). Rink 6: E Tunn (Colchester), M Dyer (Clevedon), A Cox (Handy Cross), J Roylance (North Walsham). Res: E Reed (Cherwell), B Brown (Colchester).

SQUASH

Yorkshire team stage successful ambush

THE young squad assembled by David Campion at the Queen's Sports Club in Halifax broke the Bishop's Stortford stranglehold on the Northern Group A of the SRA National League this week (Colin McQuillan writes).

The Hertfordshire side travelled to Yorkshire without their leading players, Jason Nicolle and Byron Davis, and were ambushed at second and fourth strings by Adam Toes and Lee Beachill.

Toes, a Drysdale Cup finalist two years ago, defeated James Robbins 9-0, 9-2, 9-4 and Beachill, the British under-19 champion of the past two seasons, beat Bradley Ball 7-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-0. The women's fifth-string point was always a Yorkshire banker and Cassandra Jackman made no mistake, beating Rebecca Macree by 9-2, 9-1, 9-5. Campion lost the first string dead rubber 7-9, 4-9, 9-6, 7-9 to Robin Godden. The other Bishop's Stortford winner was Ben Ford, at third string.

The win brought Queen's level on matches with Bishop's Stortford, although still four points adrift on lost rubbers. Potters Bar moved into fourth place with a 4-1 win over bottom-placed Hallamshire, but still trail Duffield on games difference.

Only Simon Parke, the world No 10 who plays for Surbiton in the Super Squash League, escaped Campion's trawl among the top Yorkshiremen. Although the best Yorkshire women, Suzanne Horner and Janie Thacker, signed with Hallamshire, Campion compensated for that by persuading Jackman, his girlfriend, a finalist in the world open this season and a former world junior champion, to move up from her home base in Norfolk.

Results, page 42

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

DIAULOS
(c) A double course, in which the racers turned round a goal and returned to the starting-point. From the Greek word for a double pipe, channel or course.

EVAL
(c) Of or pertaining to an age: age-long. From the Latin *aevum* an age. "*Aion* age, and *aionios*, eval, improperly everlasting, do not convey the ideas of a proper eternity."

DRAISINE
(a) The earliest form of bicycle, also called a *dandy-horse*. An eponym of its inventor, Baron Drais of Saverbrun near Mannheim. "One of its [the velocipede's] rudimentary forms was the draisine, a cumbersome machine invented by Baron Von Drais, of Mannheim on the Rhine. The improved draisine soon reached America."

EXIMIOUS
(b) Excellent, distinguished, eminent. From the Latin *eximius*, excepted, choice, egregious. The verbal adjective from *eximere*. Common in 17th-century literature. The few examples in the 19th century are humorous, bombastic or pedantic. It is the name of a modern London shop for impractical luxuries.

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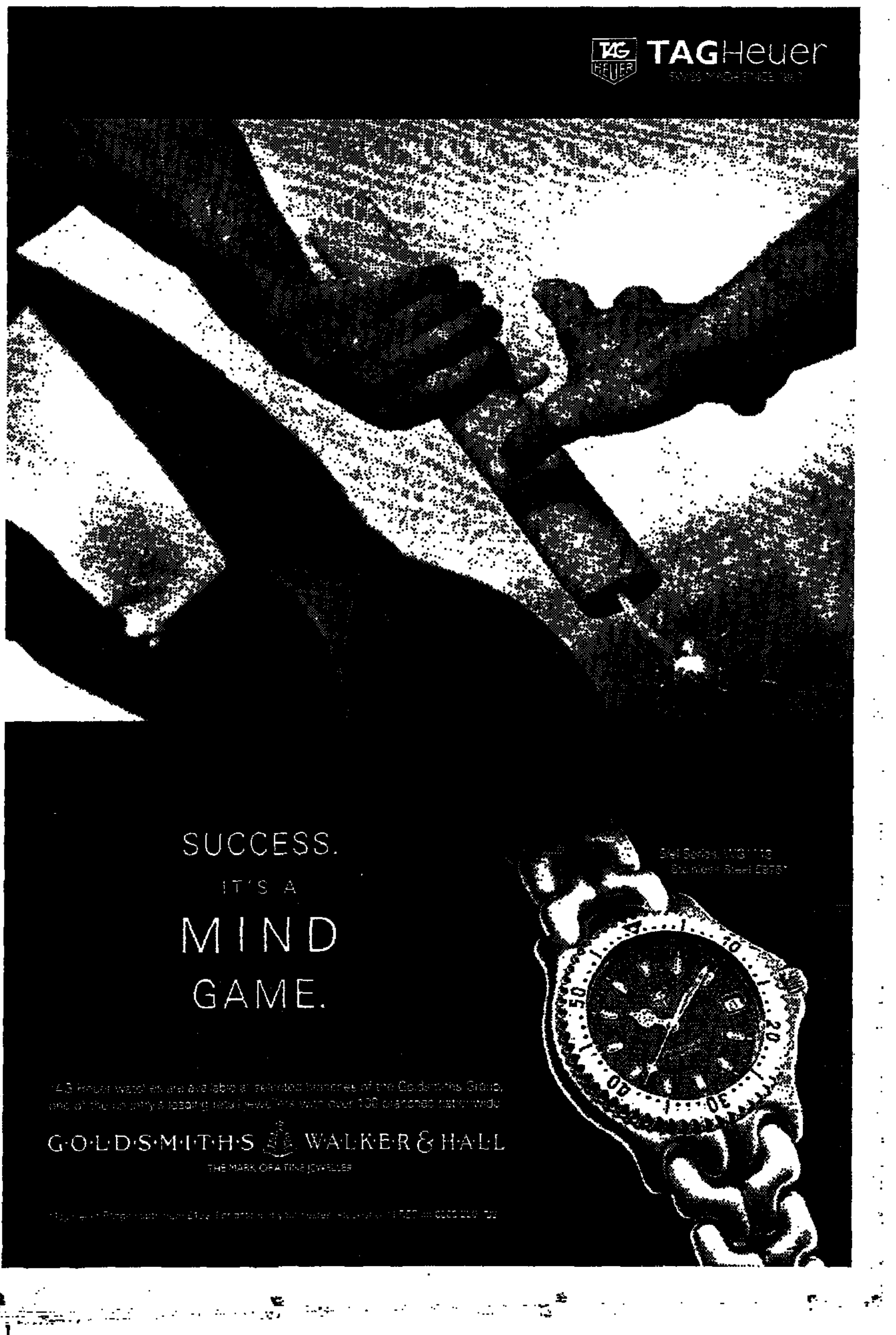

هكذا في الأصل

Road runners out of step with letter of law

You do not get very fit sat in an armchair. Nor in a car. So one of the few encouraging sights of recent years, in a world where sport is increasingly something you watch rather than something you do, has been the boom in men, women and children getting out of their chairs, forsaking their wheels and taking to the roads in their running shoes.

There can hardly be a town or village that has not revelled in its local half-marathon or Fun Run. Such events, with their simple physical challenge, have touched the lives of millions and enriched thousands of charities. These races may be low-key, local and fun or, like the Flora London Marathon or the Great North Run, they can loom like giants on the sporting calendar and the television screen. What they all have in common is that they are run on the road — a simple, all-weather surface, normally reserved for the screech of the car and the groan of the lorry.

Their organisation and smooth running depend inevitably on the goodwill of the local police, and most policemen have been happy to give it. Many applaud such community events. This is sport without hooliganism, and training for a road race has to be a more useful way of burning up youthful energy than mugging or joyriding.

The police will tell you that, despite the huge numbers that watch the London Marathon, the streets are almost crime free that day, and most fun runs would not be complete without their local contingent of policemen and women happily blistering their feet for a good cause.

'They want you back in the parks'

But I have sad news for Britain's road runners. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) does not like you very much. It wants you off the streets and back in the stadiums and parks where it thinks you belong. Because of the Road Traffic Regulations (Special Events) Act 1994, ACPO has issued a directive this year to discourage events held on public highways and to get them shifted "to sports stadia and parks". Police forces have been sending out letters to event organisers (I have a sheaf of them) pointing out this new policy.

The letters concede that there is nothing in law to prevent the events taking place, provided they do not cause obstruction or other offence, but many contain a sinister warning to would-be promoters that in the event of any accident "the police will feel obliged to make it known what advice was given at the outset".

Such is the concern for the future of road running that John Austin-Walker, the Labour MP for Woolwich, has raised the issue in Parliament by tabling an Early Day Motion with all-party support. Among those backing it are Steven Norris, the former transport minister, and Menzies Campbell, a former Olympic runner.

Austin-Walker knows about road running. He has completed 11 marathons: four in London, five in Berlin, one in Budapest, and one in Siberia (no traffic problems there). He is angry at the way the new guidelines are putting up costs of insurance and policing, and forcing organisers to abandon their popular annual events. "Road running is a serious sport for serious athletes," he said, "but it is also a great participative sport for thousands of runners of all ages and abilities, and the major runs are massive spectator events.

"It is a nonsense to suggest that the roads are only for cars. They are for people. Most don't object to the rare inconvenience of a temporary road closure, and there is no evidence to suggest that there is a problem of safety. There is a world of difference between running in a road race and running round in circles on a track or in a park. And there are few parks that can handle the numbers of people who take part in road events. Driving these races off the road will kill off the sport, and deprive charities of a fortune raised by sponsorship."

'Nonsense to say roads are only for cars'

According to Chris Brasher, founder and life president of the London Marathon, the 1994 Special Events Act, which is now being invoked to kick runners off the road, was originally pushed through for a different purpose entirely. "It was a stupid act, cobbled up to deal with the Tour de France, which was brought this side of the Channel for a couple of days in July '94," he said.

"I read every word of the asinine debate that surrounded this bit of legislation, and I despair that it is now being used to try to shut down road running."

There will be much despair, too, among those who know that at the highest level, road racing is an integral part of athletics and of the athlete's year.

Those who bewailed our lack of middle-distance and distance track medals in the Atlanta Olympics, should remember that our winners of the past — Coe, Ovett, Cram, Foster and legions more — all honed their considerable skills by racing on the roads.

In the inquest that followed Britain's performance in the United States, it was announced that the Government would attempt to tackle the problem by throwing millions of pounds of National Lottery money at our sports stars of the future.

They could save a lot and, perhaps, win a few more medals, by spending a bit of time looking at the battle that is now going on between Britain's road runners and Britain's chief constables. Sadly, it looks like a contest that will run and run.

John Bryant

The tradition of charity

The Crisis Messiah. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

There is a historic precedent for this live transmission of Handel's *Messiah* from the Northern College of Music in Manchester. All the proceeds go to Crisis, the charity that cares for the homeless. For the fifth year running, Classic FM is putting its shoulder to the wheel. Throughout the day, it will interrupt its schedules to broadcast appeals for Crisis. The number to ring is 0500 109999. Handel ageed that *Messiah's* first performance in Dublin in April 1742 should be in aid of distressed debtors in the city's jails. Considering that he was bankrupt at the time, it was a remarkable act of philanthropy. "Comfort ye," the opening words of *Messiah*, could scarcely have been more appropriate.

Like That. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

On the face of it, the main talking point about Anne Caulfield's serious play on the theme of race is that its central character is played by Lenny Henry, best known for his comedy talent. As it happens, playing a redundant soldier reunited with a schooldays chum (Linus Roache), he does give a first-rate, three-dimensional performance which would stand him in good stead if he decided to swap making us think for making us laugh. What is even more notable about *Like That* is that is has important things to say about the false attitudes that can easily be struck when skin colour and its related culture enter the social equation.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson Includes at **12.30pm-12.45** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, includes at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **9.00** Soundbite, with Danny Kelly **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **9.00** Soundbite, with Danny Kelly **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** My Mammy and Me. A sit-com by Cathy MacPhail: With Eileen McCallum, Jake D'Arcy and Kate Donnelly **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** Gospel Train, with Carol Pemberton **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester, incl Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, with Diana Madill **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** Sports Bulletin **7.35** Head to Head **8.05** Inside Edge **9.05** Sports-America **9.35** Sportshop **10.05** News Talk, Paul Reynolds **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call Hanna **2.05** Up All Night Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Anna Raeburn **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Drivetime, with Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour.
5.30am Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Health Matters **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Record Progress **11.30** The Ed Stewart Show **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Pick of the World **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor, Op 85) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Leclair (Sonata No 2 in A major, Op 13) **7.00** Travel Guide: Canada **8.00** The Crisis Messiah. See Choice **10.00** Michael Mappin, including at **11.35** Nocturne **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's *Breakfast Experience* **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Britten (Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge); Telemann (Overture-Suite in A); Schubert, arr Triebensee (Rosamunde, excerpts) **8.50** An Advent Calendar

9.00 Morning Collection. Rossini (String Sonata No 6 in D); Verdi (Addio del passato, La Traviata, Act 3); Dvořák (Romance in F minor); Bartok (Four Pieces)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Bach (Cantata No 29); Brahms (Six Pieces, Op 118); Haydn (String Quartet in E flat, Op 64 No 6); Giordani (Caro mio ben); Telemann (Fantasia No 1 in B flat); Webern (Variations, Op 30); Vivaldi (Sposa son disprezzata); Bach, arr Ormandy (Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Robert Simpson

1.00pm Opera Matinee. Michael Oliver presents the fourth of five programmes featuring some of the outstanding opera recordings issued this year. Glinka, Ruslan and Ludmilla. Recorded at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg. With Mikhail Kit, baritone, Anna Netrebko, soprano, Vladimir Ognovenko, bass, Chorus and Orchestra of the Kirov Opera under Valery Gergiev

4.45 Fairy-Tale Endings. Janacek (Pohadka, Fairy Tale); Bohuslav Pavlas, cello, Hana Dvorakova, piano

5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson talks to Sarah Leonard about her singing career

5.15 In Tune. Includes Beethoven (Overture: Leonora No 2); Albinoni (Concerto in F for two oboes, Op 9 No 3); Hoddinott (Three Advent Carols); Nielsen (Clarinet Concerto)

7.30 A Haydn Evening. Lynda Russell, soprano, David Gould, alto, Andrew Carwood, tenor, Peter Harvey, bass. Westminster Cathedral Choir and Orchestra under James O'Donnell. Insanae et vanae curae; Symphony No 85 in B flat (La reine) **8.05** Haydn's Nelson Mass — its Rise and Fall. Denis McCaldin looks at the background to Haydn's most popular Mass setting **8.20** Concert, part 2. Missa in angustiis (Nelson Mass)

9.00 Present Tense: The Enduring World of the Innu. With James Wilson

9.20 Adrian Thompson, tenor. With Iain Burnside, piano. Britten (Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo); Tippett (Boyhood's End) (r)

10.00 Music Restored. Chris de Souza introduces the last of four programmes recorded in October at the Royal Academy of Music, London, to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther. The Gabrieli Consort and Players, with Linda Perillo, soprano, Robin Blaze, alto, Joseph Cornwell, tenor, and George Mosley, bass

10.45 Night Waves, with Michele Roberts

11.30 Composer of the Week: Lully (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.55 Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk chairs a debate on the moral issues behind the week's news. Joining him are Dr David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey

10.00 News; Wonderland Girls (FM), by Marianne Carey. With Fiona Bell, Wendy Seager and Tom Smith (3/4)

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. Reports from BBC correspondents around the world

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Foul Play. In the last programme of the current series Simon Brett, challenges crime writers Ruth Dudley Edwards and Simon Shaw to solve a mystery **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping

2.00 News; Like That. See Choice

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News

4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen discusses product placement in the arts and also discovers the music of Greek singer, Maria Farantori

4.45 Short Story: The Lost City, by Vicki Jarrett. Read by Louise Ironside

5.00 PM. With Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The New York Stand-Up Comedy Show. Joy Behar traces the roots of stand-up comedy. Includes an exclusive interview with New York's funniest rabbi

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Too Late for the Party. Ray Gosling takes us on a tour of Fitzrovia — London's Bohemia (r)

8.00 Analysis: Trading Away Our Differences. Ngaire Woods looks at global free trade

8.45 My Granny's Larder: Camp Coffee. Presented by Derek Cooper

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The programme for people with disabilities. Presented by Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, With Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Pursuit. Tom Sharpe's comic novel set in the world of publishing. Read by Willie Rushton. (4/10)

11.00 Beaumarchais. The last part of Craig Warner's comedy set in 18th-century France. With Henry Goodman, Siobhan Redmond and Sean Baker

11.30 All about Eve. Lorelei King talks to Stephanie Calman, Maria McErlane and Andrea Stuart (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News incl **12.27am** approx Weather

12.30 Late Short Story: The Giant, by Brian Friel (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Iain Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara

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CRICKET

Symonds turns his back on England

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

ANDREW SYMONDS endorsed the suspicions of many and the fears of a few yesterday when he admitted: "In my heart, I've always been an Australian." By confirming that he will play for Australia A against West Indies tomorrow, Symonds has rejected the prospect of selection for England and curtailed his county career with Gloucestershire.

A ruling by the Test and County Cricket Board means that Symonds surrenders his English qualification as of tomorrow and can, in future, only play county cricket as an overseas cricketer. While it is perfectly possible that he will receive offers — Middlesex and Yorkshire are two clubs with a vacancy likely next summer — he will not get one from Gloucestershire, whose one permitted foreigner is their captain, Courtney Walsh.

Philip August, cricket secretary of the county, admitted to feeling let down. "Betrayed would be far too strong a word, but we spent most of last season seeking assurances from Andrew about his playing future and this is obviously disappointing," he said. Gloucestershire will now press ahead with trying to reinforce their batting by signing Alan Wells, the former Sussex captain, who had talks in Bristol on Tuesday.

Ever since Symonds, 21, declined the chance to tour Pakistan with England A last winter, it was plain where his instincts were leading him. Although, in the spring, he signed the newly-phrased registration document pledging his availability for England, a modest second season with his county — and Raymond Illingworth's stated resentment of his earlier rebuff — meant there was no second invitation by England A.

What took most people by surprise — perhaps even Gloucestershire — was the speed of his promotion within Australia and his selection for two representative games that appeared on no official fixture itineraries. A recent Sheffield Shield century for Queensland against New South Wales pushed Symonds's cause with the Australian selectors, but there is no doubt the selection was, to some extent, opportunistic.

Symonds said: "The decision wasn't very tough for me because I have known in my heart that I've always been an Australian. I love living here. I love the lifestyle and I think I always will. Money, to me, is not everything. I want to have a good time basically."

David Graveney, general secretary of the Professional Cricketers' Association and manager of the England A team playing in Queensland, said: "This has clarified a difficult situation. It is probably a great relief to him. Obviously, this will have an effect on Gloucestershire's resources as he is a talented player who puts bums on seats, but I think sanity has prevailed."

CLIVE MASON/ALLSPORT

Darren Gough appeals in vain against Mark Dekker, of Matabeleland, in Bulawayo yesterday. Report page 48

Headley and Ealham injured

From a Special Correspondent in Brisbane

QUEENSLAND took advantage of an England A attack weakened by injuries to Dean Headley and Mark Ealham, the Kent bowlers, to make a strong start to their first innings on the second day of the four-day match at the Gabba yesterday.

Having dismissed England for 230, after they resumed on 170 for seven, Queensland made steady progress to 154 for four — despite a 25-minute appearance as substitute fielder by Mike Gatting, the coach — before a second interruption for bad light ended play prematurely.

Ealham fractured his right index finger attempting to gather a sharp caught and bowled chance. Headley sustained a possible recurrence of the hip problem that left him on the sidelines for much of last season and has decided to return with the rest of the squad on Saturday to seek specialist advice rather stay in Australia for a holiday, as he had intended.

He would have been one of the likely candidates to be called onto the senior tour should injury befall any of the bowlers in the squad, and he said: "I am disappointed, but hopeful that this is just a flare-up and not a repetition of the previous trouble."

Headley's withdrawal forced England to promote Craig White to a strike bowler, alongside Glen Chapple. He responded by claiming two for 27 from ten overs to give England a fighting chance of restricting Queensland's first-innings lead. White tempted Jim Maher to edge behind off his third ball and then ended Troy Dixon's innings of 62 when the Queensland opener drove straight to Michael Vaughan at extra cover.

India on brink of victory in series

By Our Sports Staff

INDIA are poised for their first series victory over South Africa after taking control of the third and final Test in Kanpur yesterday. The touring team, set an implausible 461 to win, had slumped to 127 for five by the close of the fourth day.

Mohammed Azharuddin, sacked as captain earlier this year and nearly dropped from the side, was the architect of India's imposing position. Having started the day 12 runs short of a century, he went on to reach an unbeaten 163 before Sachin Tendulkar, his successor as captain, declared at lunch.

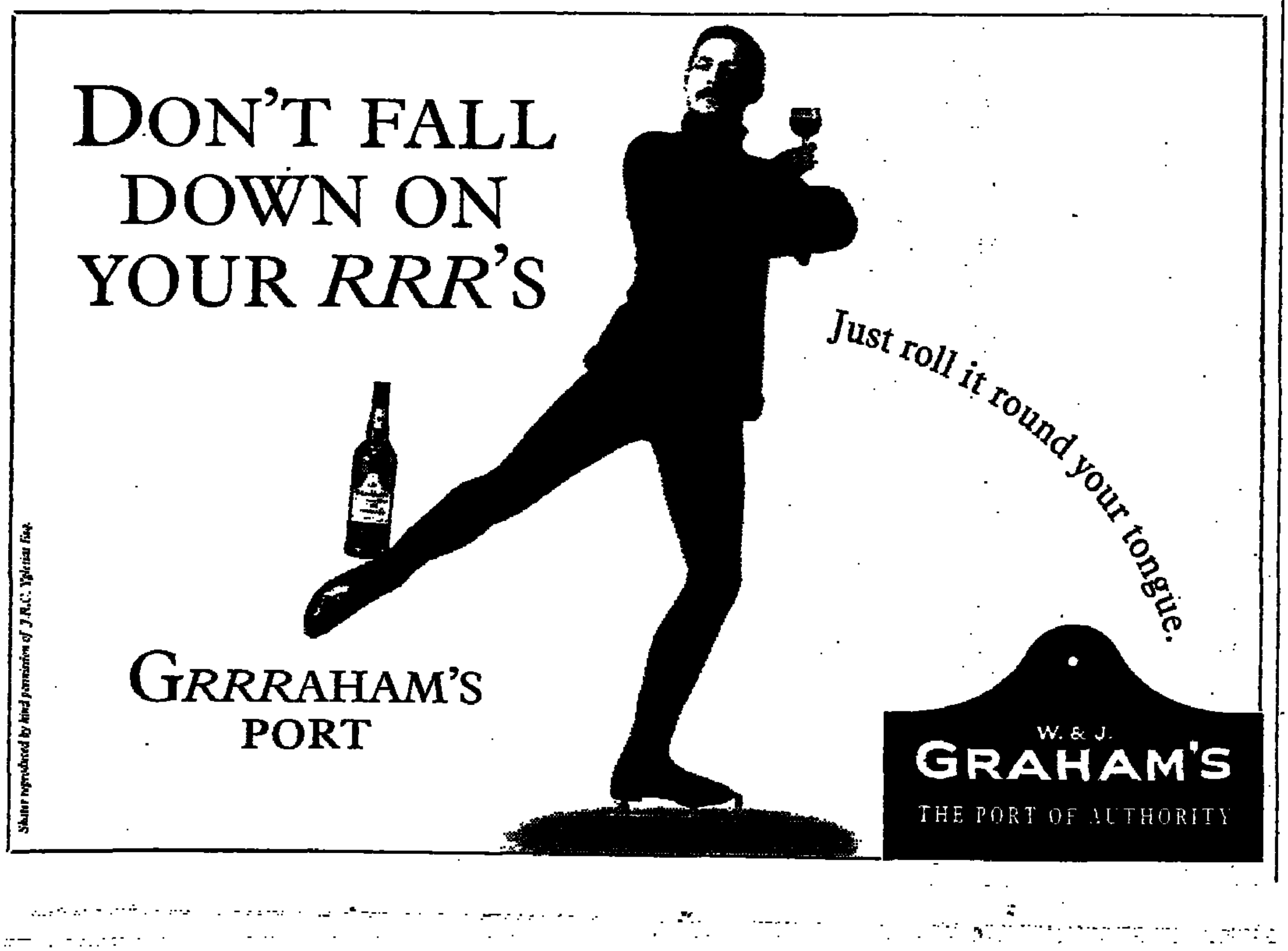
Azharuddin, who hit a century off 74 balls in the second Test in Calcutta, struck 25 boundaries and a six in his 288-ball stay. His sixth-wicket stand of 165 with Rahul Dravid, who made 56, was an Indian record for any wicket against South Africa.

South Africa, facing a 2-1 defeat in the series, made an appalling start, losing three wickets before they had 50 on the board. Gary Kirsten, who scored centuries in both innings in Calcutta, was leg-before to Srinath. Herschelle Gibbs was bowled by Prasad for five and Darryl Cullinan, at the non-striker's end, was run out by a direct hit from Tendulkar at mid-off.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, provided some resistance, sharing a 58-run fourth-wicket partnership with Andrew Hudson. Cronje hit eight boundaries in his half-century, including four in one over from Sunil Joshi, before the left-arm spinner gained revenge, having him caught at extra cover.

India, who have not lost a home series since their 1986-87 defeat to Pakistan, won the opening test in Ahmedabad, but South Africa levelled the series with a crushing 329-run triumph in Calcutta.

Scoreboards, page 42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GRRRAHAM'S PORT
Just roll it round your tongue.
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هكذا من الاصل

Deadly diesel oil, dullards and dilettantes

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

Yucky stuff in **The X-Files** last night (BBC1). The episode was called *Apocrypha* — heaven knows why. But it followed up last week's story, and clarified a few things. Why did *people's eyes keep darkening* with black filmy stuff? Because aliens were using diesel oil *as a medium*. What? "I think it's a medium," said Mulder, peering at a test-tube. "They are using *it* to body-jump." Scully's white stone face registered *mild scepticism, but as usual*, Mulder was dead right. Those possessed of the alien diesel oil sometimes vomited black rivers, with tributary black streams gushing from their eyes. This unlovely trick was performed for the first time, I regret to say, just as I was lifting a forkful of dinner to my lips.

But over on BBC2 at the same time, **Modern Times** concerned middle-aged men to whom the smell of diesel oil is very bliss. *The Power and the Glory*, directed by Lucy Jago, followed the fortunes of two rival speedboat drivers: Cliff, from Littlehampton, a self-made man with tattoos and gold chains; and Charles, a Canadian multimillionaire in a cowboy hat. Both were in contention for the Needles Cup, and the documentary certainly crossed the starting line with what appeared to be a lot of poke under the bonnet — the personal rivalry, the sea-spray thrill of the race, and the wry contrasts between the contestants' lifestyles. Cliff's tank business, for example, entailed the handling of doggy-poo bins. Meanwhile Charles idled his days driving a tank (the other sort of tank) in circles on the front lawn, *with a Palladian portico behind*.

But it was funny how it turned out. While *The Power and the Glory* remained an enjoyable film, it sort-of floated in a becalmed, chip-choppy way rather than ever getting fired up. The race for the Needles Cup duly took place, Cliff broke down, Charles won it. Then another race at Cowes promised to settle matters; Cliff broke down again, Charles got a big wreath and a European championship. As for the red-hot rivalry, the men displayed minimal animosity. And *as for the thrill of the race*, the grey, driver's-eye-view from a boat travelling at high speed turns out to be rather disappointing. Where is the skill, anyway? Is it just a matter of gripping a steering wheel and not letting go?

The annoying thing was, each of the men made an interesting individual story. Charles cut quite a pathetic figure — *all that money*, but no real friends; a grand house, but empty. Poor little rich boy, he'd been lonesome all his life. But for all the sympathy he was shown, no explanation was offered for his featured obsession: ie, beating people less well off than himself at power-boats. If danger is the buzz, other pursuits are equally perilous. Cliff's obsession was easier to understand, because he clearly loved *his* boat *as a* machine. Charles, predictably, employed mechanics to deal with the oily-rag stuff, leaving him free to dress up for parties or trim his moustache.

Ho hum, I sometimes think that if there were no rich people with big houses, there would be nothing to watch on telly these days. Rejoicing in the most cumbersome title of recent times, **Enterprise Culture Revisited** (BBC2) invites us to gloat at big-walleted people who boomed and bust in the 1980s — and much as it is bad manners to gloat, you can't help watching agog, and occasionally thinking "tee hee". Last night's subject (the second in the series) was a self-made funeral services entrepreneur called Howard Hodgson, who retired from his own business at the age of 40 in 1989, and has kicked his heels ever since, the allure of pokey power-boats somehow passing him by.

He was quite a dull man, actually. The most interesting things about him were his favoured haircut (long, shaggy footballer style) and his belief that he was (or had ever been) a household name. His son and heir had inherited this famous handle, and complained about it: one day he hoped to be Howard Hodgson in his own right, not overshadowed by his famous dad. Someone ought to reassure the poor youth: "Don't worry, most people have never heard of Howard Hodgson," but I suspect this is not what he really wants to hear.

Archive stuff from the late 1980s brought the story to life — a documentary about *Hodgson's gloomy empire*, in which he posed for colour supplements amid satin-lined coffins, wore a natty hat, and daily purchased small Clacton-on-Sea undertaking firms the way other people buy fags. This telly moment *was evidently the source of his* surprising belief that, at some point in his career, he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Richard Branson (or, as Hodgson called him, "Richard"). Should Hodgson have turned to balloon-racing or other dangerous sports? Perhaps *he should. When he relinquished* his business, evidently his competitive instincts turned to drinking beer and getting girlfriends, with the result that his marriage broke up. "Forty is too young to retire," he said, choosing his words with care, "*If you've still got lead in your pencil.*"

Now, with his son at his side, he promotes Ronson lighters and wristwatches to the "male grooming" market, which targets men in three categories as Rebels, Racers *and something else beginning* with R. What sort was he, if he wasn't a Racer? A Rebel, of course. And by rebel, he means (with a chuckle) the sort of person who *would run over a Newbury bypass* protester. Well, I had no idea there'd be a wristwatch designed with that specific character trait in mind. It just goes to show. Enterprise culture clearly never went away.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (32270) **7.00** BBC Breakfast News (T) (50831) **9.00** Breakfast News Extra (T) (1991386)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE *(4874305)*

9.45 KILROY (6600454)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK *(56676)*

11.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3300638) **11.05** The Really Useful Show Consumer advice (5394251) **11.45** Smillie's People (7034742)

12.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (6577675) **12.05pm** Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (3347299) **12.50** A Different Country Practice. The general practitioner (r) (30710096)

1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (60218) **1.30** Regional News and weather (68577562)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (29751638) **2.00** Call My Bluff Word game (1893) **2.30** The Terrace Do-it-yourself advice (638) **3.00** Incognito (1788)

3.30 PINOCCHIO (r) (5915386) **3.50** The Family Ness (r) (6943831) **3.55** The Itsy Bitsy Spider (5918473) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (T) (8348831) **4.35** Smart (T) (7628473) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5286034) **5.10** The Biz Drama series set in a school of dance and drama (T) (8588541)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS *(r) (T) (344116)*

6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (367)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (947)

7.00 WATCHDOG Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (T) (2909)

7.30 EASTENDERS Peggy has some shocking news for the family. Tiffany lays down some ground rules and it's decision time for Alan (T) (831)

8.00 ANIMAL HOSPITAL DOWN UNDER The first of two programmes from Australia. Tonight Rolf Harris joins vets working in the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Queensland (1/2) (T) (1657)

8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN *Ben goes to great* lengths to become a member of a plumbers' secret society. With Gary Olsen and Belinda Lang. (T) (1544)

9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (4102)

9.30 THE THIN BLUE LINE As Gasforth Football Club win through to the second round of the FA Cup, Grim looks forward to tackling some football hooligans (T) (88763)

10.00 CROCODILE SHOES Jed's sister is *charged with Pep's murder, leaving Jed* to care for his niece and raise the money for her defence. Starring Jimmy Nail (T) (135725)

10.55 QUESTION TIME Introduced by David Dimbleby in Manchester. The guests include MPs Roger Freeman and Liz Lynne (T) (391454)

11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK With Diana Ross (r) (T) (774218)

12.30am FILM: The Amazing Colossal Man (1957, b/w). A B-movie yarn about an *American Army colonel* who is exposed to an overdose of radiation and grows at an alarming rate. He then goes on the rampage in Las Vegas. Directed by Bert I. Gordon (T) (1457110)

1.50 WEATHER *(8242955)*

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BBC2

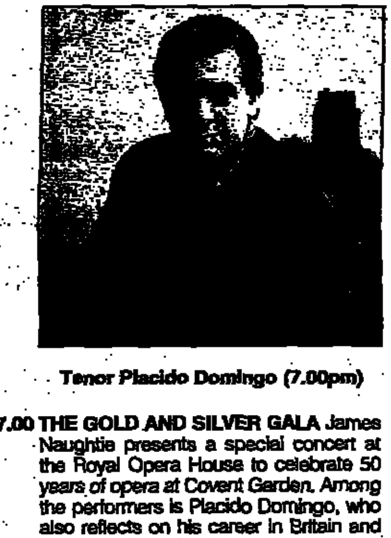
6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Berlin — Unemployment and the Family (7766270) **6.25** East Meets West: Asian Familes, *Western Culture* (7785305) **6.50** Disappearing Childhood (8099367) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (2018454) **7.30** Yakky Duck (5946638) **7.50** Blue Peter (5940454) **8.15** Noddy (5685541) **8.25** Pingu (5676893) **8.35** The Record (6076560) **9.00** The Complete Guide to the 20th Century (1771560) **9.10** Space *for Four* (5484454) **10.00** Playdays (2444305) **10.25** The Fugitive (8271980) **11.15** The Phil Silvers Show (9474788) **11.40** Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (4789675) **12.00** Operation Survival (38270) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (86541) **1.00** Pingu (82277812) **1.05** Noddy (99742893)

1.15 FILM: Three Ring Circus (1954) starring Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. Comedy *about two men deciding to join the circus* after their discharge from the army. Directed by Joseph Pevney (72544893)

3.00 NEWS (T) (7147638) **3.05** Westminster with Nick Ross (T) (2481676) **3.55** News *(T) (6940744)* ***4.00*** *Today's the Day (560)* **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (744) **5.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (T) (4617541) **5.40** The Sky at Night (T) (545893)

6.00 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE *(T) (481473)*

6.45 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS: The Right to a Home *A look at life on the streets* (410378)



Tenor Placido Domingo (7.00pm)

7.00 THE GOLD AND SILVER GALA James Naughtie presents a special concert at the Royal Opera House to celebrate 50 *years of opera at Covent Garden.* Among the performers is Placido Domingo, who also reflects on his career in Britain and his special relationship with the House (578638)

9.30 BANGLADESH 25: How The East Was Won The first of two programmes marking the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. Tonight, Lisa Aziz looks at how independence was achieved and explores modern Bangladesh. Among those making contributions are the Prime *Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and the British* journalist Simon Dring (1/2) (T) (540473)

10.20 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS (776183)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (r) (197725)

11.15 LATE REVIEW *(712218)*

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR Live result of the *Barnsley East by-election* (16348)

12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: Open University. Taking the Credit — Women in TV (86619) **1.00** Strategy on the Screen (70936) **1.30** The Film — *Joyride* (10042) **2.00** Believing: Long Search (18565) **4.00** Business and Work: Winning (34067) **5.00** The Small Business Programme (74121)

CHOICE

Women At Play: Turkish Delight

Channel 4, 8.00pm

The Victorian Turkish baths in Harrogate are the site for a study of women shedding their clothes and their troubles. If the director, Noemie Mendelle, sometimes overdoes the soft-focus photography and frozen frames, she handles her subject with *style and sympathy and, given that it* involves naked women, tact. Much of the film's impact comes from the physical appearance of the baths with their ornate decoration and striking brown, yellow and blue tiles. But Mendelle also catches a clutch of human stories. One woman comes to help a long-term illness, another to cure a hangover. *Clare gets up at 4.30am and* cycles all the way from York, a journey of three hours. Most agree that the warmth and the comradeship enable them to take a rest from the stresses of the world outside.

Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich

ITV, 8.30pm

Barrymore is one our best popular entertainers, a performer who can squeeze comedy out of almost nothing and has the knack of being chummy without being patronising. But his talent often struggles to find the right outlet. Whether returning to the helm of an old game show is a clever career move, only time and the ratings will tell. It could be construed as playing for safety, for *Strike It Lucky* (as the show was then called) launched Barrymore's career in 1987. It returns after a gap of four years *under a new name and with Barrymore* joining such stars as Clive James and Sir David Frost in getting his name in the title. Despite the new set and a doubling of prize money to £10,000 the formula is essentially *the same, with three couples competing* across an arch of television monitors.

Bangladesh 25: How the East Was Won

BBC2, 9.30pm

It is 25 years since East Pakistan became the independent state of Bangladesh. The anniversary is the occasion for two BBC documentaries, one next week looking at Bangladeshis in Britain and tonight's *admirably lucid history of the birth of the* new nation. Separated by 1,000 miles of India, West and East Pakistan shared a Government, the Muslim religion and not much else, though it took a bloody civil war *to make the division permanent. Simon* Dring, one of the few journalists on the spot, recalls the street battles of 1971 when the Pakistan Army was mobilised against the people of Dhaka. We also hear from Sheikh Hasina, the current Prime Minister and daughter of Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was *assassinated four years after independence.*

Film Challenge: Oi! Referee

Channel 4, 9.45pm

There are more than 30,000 football referees in Britain and most of them ply their trade not on the big stage of the Premiership but *on park pitches on Saturday afternoons* and Sunday mornings. Paul Whittington's well-observed little film profiles two of them, Eric Fenn and Charlie Cooke, from their base in Nottinghamshire. The match fee is £9, including travel, but they hardly do it for the money. The first task is to ensure that the pitch is free of broken glass and dog mess, *then it is off to a cramped changing room* and on with the black uniform. Abuse from players and spectators is part of the job, and maintaining control of the game can be tricky. But all is outweighed by a passion for the game. Eric Fenn admits the pressures but says: "Surely it's better than taking the missus shopping. There can't be nowt worse than that."

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (7923473)

9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (T) (4859096)

9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (2421454)

10.00 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE (16909)

10.30 THIS MORNING (60760893)

12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (1519469)

12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (9756218)

12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (9731909) **1.25** Coronation Street (r) (T) (9809562) **2.00** *Home and Away (T) (92210152)*

2.25 CROSS WITS (T) (79260837)

2.50 VANESSA *(T) (3734218)*

3.20 NEWS (T) (7154928)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS *(T) (7153299)*

3.30 THE RIDDLERS (8400021) **3.40** Wizadora (1220522) **3.50** Old Bear Christmas Special (r) (6285247) **4.05** Scooby Doo (r) (2040270) **4.40** Out Of Sight (T) *(1809473)*

5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (7303541)

5.40 NEWS *(T) and weather (572947)*

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (868611)

6.25 HTV NEWS *(T) (270454)*

7.00 EMMERDALE (T) (6855)

7.30 THE BIG STORY: The Crack Conspiracy Dermot Murnaghan investigates allegations that the crack cocaine that hit the streets of America in the 1980s was part of a CIA conspiracy to *encourage drug-dealing and thereby help fund* anti-communist rebels in Central America who produced the drug (299)

8.00 THE BILL: Scorned A dentist is accused of sexual assault by a young mother. *Rawton and Croft investigate (T) (6725)*

Host Michael Barrymore (8.30pm)

8.30 STRIKE IT RICH Comedy game show hosted by Michael Barrymore (T) (8560)

9.00 FILM: Tequila Sunrise (1988) Starring Mel Gibson, Kurt Russell and Michelle Pfeiffer. A drug dealer is forced into a confrontation with a childhood friend, now a cop. Directed by Robert Towne. **Continues after the news** (T) (7541)

10.00 NEWS *(T) and weather (33725)*

10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (754657)

10.40 FILM: Tequila Sunrise Concludes (T) (1052164)

11.50 HUNTER: The Girl Next Door The torture slaying of a typical "girl next door" leads the duo to discover that she was *actually a Russian spy who wanted to* defect (160831)

12.50am NOT FADE AWAY (4627619)

1.50 FLUX (6939597)

2.50 LATE & LOUD (8415139)

3.45 THE BIG MATCH — REPLAYED (r) (5429139)

4.30 THE TIME . . . *THE PLACE* (r) (88955)

5.00 THE NEW MR & MRS SHOW (r) (36058)

5.30 ITN MORNING NEWS *(36413)*

As HTV West except:

12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9731909)

1.25 CROSS WITS (30375270)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29758541)

2.20 VANESSA (84115788)

2.50-3.20 HIGH ROAD (3734218)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7303541)

6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (913760)

11.50 ITV AT THE PHOENIX FESTIVAL (25320541)

2.50am NOT FADE AWAY (8415139)

3.45 FLUX *(8844416)*

4.40 JOBFINDER (9479868)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 EMMERDALE (9731909)

1.25-1.55 CROSSWITS *(30375270)*

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21381522)

2.25 VANESSA (85585229)

2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (5788378)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY *(7303541)*

6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (78386)

11.50 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H *(444305)*

12.45am NOT FADE AWAY (596400)

1.45 FLUX (592684)

2.45 LATE & LOUD (583936)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm CROSS WITS (9731909)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30375270)

1.55 SHORTLAND STREET (29758541)

2.20 VANESSA (84115788)

2.50-3.20 HOUSEPARTY (3734218)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7303541)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (763)

6.30-7.00 ANYTHING YOU CAN DO (265)

11.50 BAYWATCH (444305)

12.45am NOT FADE AWAY (596400)

1.45 FLUX (592684)

2.45 LATE & LOUD (583936)

4.30 BEYOND REASON (88955)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55pm CROSS WITS (9731909)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30375270)

1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (29758541)

2.20 VANESSA (84115788)

2.50-3.20 PERFECTLY PETS (3734218)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7303541)

6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (265)

11.50 HIGHLANDER (160831)

S4C

Starts: 6.35am PRO STARS (8096270) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (43541) **9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER** (43102) **9.30 Film: DIVE BOMBER** (948473) **12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE** (30638) **12.30pm TRUMPTON** (91851657) ***12.45 ALFIE ATKINS*** *(91849812)* **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (6859247) **1.35 Film: THE BELLES OF ST TRINIAN'S** (48020034) **3.15 RICKI LAKE** (9559183) **4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE** (928) ***4.30 RIDE ON*** (812) **5.00 5 PUMP** *(8183)* **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (164) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (911473) **6.05 HENO** (268837) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (289386) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (390251) **7.25 PENBLWYDD HAPUS** (558164) **8.00 EDEN** (4367) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (6102) **9.00 Y PALMANT AUR** (5183) **10.00 Film: HEATHERS** (798589) **11.55 DISPATCHES** (240676) **12.40am RED** ***BASE ONE FOUR*** *(4520752)*

CHANNEL 4

6.35am PRO STARS (r) (8096270)

7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (43541)

9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (43102)

9.30 FILM: Dive Bomber (1941, b/w) A Second World War drama with Errol *Flynn, directed by Michael Curtiz* (948473)

12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE (30638) **12.30** Trumpton (r) (91851657) **12.45** Alfie Atkins (r) (91849812) **1.00** Sesame Street (56164) **2.00** Lights Before Dawn (48141638)

2.05 FILM: Seven Hills of Rome (1957). A musical with Mario Lanza, directed by Roy Rowland (259638)

4.00 FIFTEEN TO ONE (T) (928)

4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (812)

5.00 RICKI LAKE (T) (2484589)

5.45 POND LIFE (T) (846034)

6.00 NEW GAMESMASTER (T) (305)

6.30 HOLLYOAKS (T) (657)

7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (672183)

7.50 THE SLOT (630541)

All girls together (8.00pm)

8.00 WOMEN AT PLAY: TURKISH DELIGHT A visit to the women-only Victorian Turkish Baths in Harrogate (T) (4367)

8.30 TV DINNERS Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall oversees amateur chefs preparing sumptuous meals. Tonight, Fred Carr, a stockbroker, demonstrates *the art of spit roasting and Selina Snow, an artist, goes in search of the ingredients for a theatrical birthday dinner* (T) (6102)

9.00 DISPATCHES An investigation into the body set up by the drinks industry to *promote responsible drinking* (T) (832305)

9.45 THE LLOYDS BANK FILM CHALLENGE: OI! REFEREE An irreverent look at the world of amateur *football referees (T) (645454)*

10.00 FILM: Bhaji on the Beach (1993). The delightful story of a group of Asian women who decide to escape the pressures of their various lives by taking a *trip to Blackpool. Directed by Gurinder* Charda (T) (798589)

11.55 MOVIEWATCH (r) (767928)

12.30am TIM ALLEN: REWIRES AMERICA The comedian expounds his theory of the battle of the sexes (r) (9741416)

1.05 THE NIGHTMARE YEARS A drama *serial about an American journalist* working in prewar Nazi Germany (3/4) (r) (T) (975936)

2.55 FILM: Beyond the Forest (1949, b/w) A drama starring Bette Davis and Joseph *Cotten Directed by King Vidor* (731508)

4.35-5.40 FILM: Three on a Match (1932, b/w) A drama starring Joan Blondell, Ann Dvorak and Bette Davis as school friends who meet after a break of 12 years. *Directed by Mervyn LeRoy* (3754503)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4409183) **7.20** Press Your Luck (4429947) **7.40** Jeopardy! (3645367) **8.10** Hotel (5091164) **9.00** Another World (9204657) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (7341589) **10.40** Real TV (4264102) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9896102) **12.00** Geraldo (90522) **1.00pm** 1 to 3 (40980) **3.00** Jenny Jones (13909) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (25744) **5.00** *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (3034) **6.00** *New Adventures of Superman* (29034) **7.00** Simpsons (4763) **7.30** *M*A*S*H.* (7913) **8.00** Sightings (46725) **9.00** Nash Bridges (68589) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (69676) **11.00** New Adventures of Superman (85541) **12.00** L.A.P.D. (89400) **12.30am** Real TV (20023) **1.00** Hit Mix (53348)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492102) **8.00** Police Rescue (1488522) **9.00** Roses are for the Rich (1478909) **11.00** Late Show, with David Letterman (1806096) **12.00 FILM: A Nightmare on Elm Street Part II: Freddy's Revenge** (2135042) **2.00am** Hit Mix (8212706)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am A Perfect Couple (1979) (74928) **8.00 The Wind and the Lion (1974)** (51096) ***10.00 Sweet Talker (1990)*** (76812) **11.30 Gypsy (1993)** (905893) **2.00pm Heart Like a Wheel (1983)** (50928) **4.00 A Walton Wedding (1995)** (5638) **6.00 The Pagemaster (1994)** (21683837) **7.40** US Top 10 (471725) **8.00 Miracle on 34th Street (1994)** (42909) **10.00 The Movie Show** (79541) **10.30 Robocop 3 (1993)** (28364251) **12.15am Flesh and Bone (1993)** (48789077) **2.20 Sleeping with Strangers (1994)** (442619) **4.00 PCU (1994)** (41077)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Lancer Spy (1937) (91589) **7.30 The Prince and the Pauper (1972)** (84676) **8.30 Tintin: The Seven Crystal Balls and Prisoners of the Sun (1987)** (97218) **10.00 My Brother's Keeper (1994)** (13473) **12.00 Midnight Runaround (1994)** (72589) **2.00pm The Face on the Milk Carton (1995)** (41270) **4.00 My Neighbour Totoro (1993)** (6980) **6.00 White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf (1994)** (61034) **8.00 Wyatt Earp (1994)** (92847522) **11.10 Love, Cheat and Steal (1994)** (636893) **12.50am The Red Shoe Diaries: Burning Up (1993)** (3445431) **2.20 The Doomsday Gun (1994)** (810481) **4.10 White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf (1994)** (85229619)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Broken Lance (1954) (8724560) **6.00 Father of the Bride (1950)** (3128298) ***8.00 The Crush (1993)*** (3123744) **10.00 Heartbreak Ridge (1986)** (41049909) **12.15am The King of Marvin Gardens (1972)** (8841232) **2.00 Riot (1969)** (7953226) **3.40-5.25 The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1958)** (8831955)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

6.00am Mouse Tracks (4155473) **6.25** Quack Attack (4134980) **6.50** Bonkers (9049560) **7.15** Darkwing Duck (4948742) **7.40** Aladdin (3436580) **8.05** Goof Troop (3938831) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (3283164) **8.40** Sing Me a Story (8198893) ***9.05*** *Grounding Marsh (5733893)* **9.30** Big Garage (3245960) **9.45** Lamb Chop (340164) **10.15** Muppet Babies (9819706) ***10.40*** *Adventures in Wonderland (7767657)* **11.10** Mouse Tracks (8192454) **11.40** Under the Umbrella Tree (9357015) ***12.10pm*** *Fraggle Rock (3995676)* **12.35** Lamb Chop (1565980) **1.05** Goof Troop (82236947) **1.30** Aladdin (94481164) **1.55** *Darkwing Duck (94489183)* **2.25** Bonkers (88962947) **2.50** Quack Attack (8377034) **3.20** Timon and Pumbaa (8896270) **3.30** *Goof Troop (7974164)* **3.55** Timon and Pumbaa (1372183) **4.05** Goof Troop (2210265) **4.35** Bonkers (2454454) **5.00** *Aladdin (7896454)* **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (3909183) **6.35** Darkwing Duck (291560) **6.00** Bone Chillers (1725) **6.30** Blossom *(5305)* **7.00** *Home Improvement* (127367) **7.25 FILM: Home Fires Burning** (68848305) **9.00** Making of 101 Dalmations *(51748)* **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (87611).

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am *Sports Centre (21367)* **7.30** Wrestling (53134) **8.30** Racing News (41657) **9.00** Sports Centre (32909) **9.30** Aerobics (78299) **10.00** Grass Roots Rugby (14589) **10.30** Futbol Mundial (21893) **11.00** Watersports (19522) **12.00** Aerobics (45473) **12.30pm** Boxing (567657) **3.00** Motorsports (59725) **4.00** Grass Roots Rugby (3164) **4.30** Futbol Mundial (2676) **4.59** *Sports Centre (2031638)* **5.00** Wrestling (6522) **6.00** Sports Centre (3541) **6.30** Ice Hockey Holland v GB — Live (751909) **9.00** Netbusters (95015) **10.00** Sports Centre (46102) **10.30** Cricket: Best of All Time — English XI (47003) **11.30** Tight Lines (42367) **12.30am** Sports Centre (75597) **1.00** Netbusters (31464) **2.00** Ice Hockey (152868) **4.30-5.00** Sports Centre (87329)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00pm Tight Lines (6783725) **9.00** Sailing (2007102) **9.30** Finish Line (4259947) **10.00** Spanish Football (6706876) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (3922831) **12.30am-1.00** Rugby Union: Hall of Fame — Andy Irvine (7455503)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Best of All Time — Overseas XI (43738909) **1.00pm** Golf: Meespierson *Corporate Challenge* (43747657) **2.00** Squash: Tournament of Champions (94438638) **3.00** Pool: Mosconi Cup 1995 (11746928) **5.30** Rebel Sports (83971980) **6.00** Beach Volleyball (43727893) **7.00** Sports Centre (41278980) **7.30** Football *League Review* (31152580) **9.00** Golf: Meespierson Corporate (41108980) **10.00** Asian Golf Show (41118367) **11.00** World of Sailing (10059831) **11.30-12.00** Sports Centre (94426893)

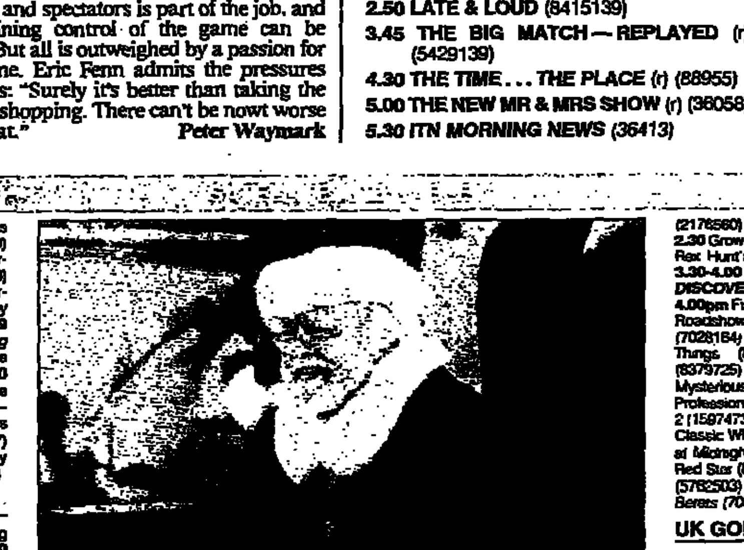
EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (99522) **8.30** Motors (11096) **9.30** Skiing: Women's World Cup Super G — Live (67251) ***11.00*** *Biathlon: World Cup* — Live (29831) **1.30pm** Snowboarding (68454) **2.00** Snooker: German Open — Live (89454) ***4.00*** *Biathlon* (63928) **5.00** Ski Special (1218) **6.00** World Cup Legends (75102) **7.00** Snooker (36299) **9.00** Fitness: *Miss and Mister World* Grand Prix (80183) **10.00** Boxing (83270) **11.00** Sailing (84657) **11.30** Car on Ice (98541) **12.00-12.30** *Funsports* (99482)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5942183) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (29519812) **6.45** Our Backyard (82026305) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (7410980) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (8415560) **7.30** The Return of the Antelope (1400557) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1721928) **8.30** The Krypton Factor (1720299) **9.00** Families (1704251) **9.30** Albion Market (5231454) **10.00** Goostrey, a Village (6217270) **10.30** Leave it to Charlie (1733763) **11.00** Love for Lydia (1419305) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1724015) **12.30pm** Surgical Spirit (5235270) **1.00** The Practice (1480693) **1.30** Families (5234541) **2.00** After the War (6225299) **3.00** Leave it to Charlie (1804251) **3.30** All in a Day's Work (1604454) **4.00** Sam (2354096) **5.00** Love for Lydia (1828831) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (1600638) **6.30** Families (1624218) **7.00** Holding the Fort (1829560) **7.30** Surgical Spirit (1613102) **8.00** Sam (8643725) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2178305) **9.35** *The Good Life Guide* (2127812) **10.00-11.00** Shades of Darkness (8668876)

From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors



Richard Attenborough stars (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant **From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine.** Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith **From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty.** Includes Natural Health **From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden.** Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Errol Flynn (2018218) **5.00** Hollywood (1774947) **6.00** The Spitfire Diamond Jubilee Airshow (4247102) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Richard Nixon (6707305)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from 8pm-4am Monday to Wednesday and 1am-4am Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from 8am-4am every day on cable. **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6714232) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (6222684) **2.00** *New Alfred Hitchcock* (3153110) **2.30** Rod Serling's Night Gallery (3245145) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (2161394)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4806034) **9.30** *The Great Gardening Plot* (2173473) **10.00** Go Fishing (8451541) **10.30** Hometime (4802218) **11.00** The Restoration Game (1584909) **11.30** Craftwise (1595538) **12.00** Two's Country Cooking (4886270) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2184589) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1124367) **1.30** Home Again (2176560) **2.00** Furniture to Go (7037812) **2.30** Grow with Your Greens (8387744) **3.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (7056947) **3.30-4.00** The Old House (8399589) **DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.** **4.00pm** Fishing Adventures (8378096) **4.30** Roadshow (8387980) **5.00** Time Travellers (7028164) **5.30** Terra X (8381560) **6.00** Wild Things (8389473) **6.30** Wild Things (8379725) **7.00** Next Step (7048928) **7.30** Mysterious World (8375909) **8.00** The Professionals (1802386) **9.00** Top Marques 2 (1597473) **9.30** Flightline (2164725) **10.00** Classic Wheels (1892909) **11.00** Execution at Midnight (1134744) **12.00** Wings of the Red Star (8321058) **1.00am** The Extremists (5782503) **1.30-2.00** Special Forces: Green Berets (7059771)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2895299) **7.35** Crossroads (2599638) **8.00** Neighbours (9143218) **8.25** EastEnders (2584812) **9.00** *The Bill* (4875164) **9.30** *One by One* (8069299) **10.30** The Sullivans (4804676) **11.00** Softly Softly: Task Force (1122909) **12.00** Crossroads (40711725) **12.25pm** Neighbours (40714812) **12.55** EastEnders (1714909) **1.30** Terry and June (1184164) **2.10** A Little Bit of Emery (28261096) **2.20** Brush Strokes (1939270) **3.00** Sale of the Century (7058305) **3.30** The Bill (8391947) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1500947) **5.00** EastEnders (6206588) **5.35** Crossroads (6138638) **6.00** Get Some In! (8380831) **6.30** Ever Decreasing Circles (7474096) **7.05** Bob's Full House (6068928) **7.45** The Other One (9403893) **8.20** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV (2824589) **9.00** The Equalizer (1884960) **10.00** The Bill (4269015) **10.35** The Young Ones (5782251) **11.15** Taggart (1083270) **12.15am FILM: Blue Ice** (5526619) **2.00** Rowland Rivron Bites the Bullet (6739771) **2.30** Shopping at Night (6821706)

TCC

6.00am *Swan's Crossing* (4144367) **6.20** Meltdown (4148183) **6.45** Halfway across the Galaxy (814164) **7.15** Ready or Not *(844305)* **7.45** *California Dreams* (843676) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (358183) **8.45** Art Attack (9578015) **9.00** Tiny and Crew (9852744) **9.20** *Brum* (9832960) **9.40** Johnson (9483873) **10.00** Robin and Rosie (6764675) **10.20** Philbert (6580299) **10.40** *Charlie Chalk* (4440541) **11.00** Dinobabies (98638) **11.30** Animal Show (99367) **12.00** Barney (74909) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (94251) **1.00** Casper (38928) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (94494638) **1.55** Johnson (41988270) **2.20** Bump (38145675) **2.40** *Mr Benn* (1017693) **3.00** Halfway across the Galaxy (6928) **3.30** Ready or Not (8015) **4.00** California Dreams *(7522)* **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (6034)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (36522) **6.30** Biker Mice (81251) **7.00** Rocko (1806873) **7.15** Hey *Arnold! (7311557)* **7.30** *Rugrats (31744)* **8.00** Doug (40928) **8.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (49299) **9.00** Carmen Sandiego (23251) **9.30** Wishbone (69541) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (7046928) **10.10** Katie and Orbie (3380270) **10.35** Mr Men (2180218) **10.45** Bananas in Pyjamas (2140454) **11.00** Clarissa (87386) **12.30pm** Sister Sister (70657) **1.00** Babar (11980) **1.30** Katie and Orbie (79928) **2.00** Little Bear Stories *(4305)* ***2.30*** *Stickin Around* (76003) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (4034) **4.30** Rugrats (8298763) **4.45** Doug (8291218) ***5.00*** *Sister Sister (5657)* **5.30** Moesha (4270) **6.00** Round the Twist (1183) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (5763)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (5893) **7.30** Benson *(1947)* ***8.00*** *Due South (73893)* **9.00** Almost Perfect (85386) **9.30** Taxi (50893) **10.00** Entertainment UK (44744) ***10.30*** *Girls on Top (20164)* ***11.00*** Manmade News (60831) **11.30** Nightstand (40909) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (73139) ***1.00*** *Due South (31445)* ***2.00*** *Entertainment* UK (35597) **2.30** Manmade News (10232) **3.00** Girls on Top (44482) **3.30-4.00** Almost *Perfect (39684)*

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2150522) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2169270) **2.00** Mammal (69880522) **3.25 FILM: The Secret of Santa Vittoria** (80109522) **6.00** Thunderbirds (2189034) **7.00** The Champions (1880164) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (1899812) **9.00** Crime Story (1819676) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Grim Prairie Tales**

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1499831) **7.00** The Agony Experience (1033676) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (3405454) **8.20** Ken Hom (1384980) **8.55** Turnabout (8698386) **9.35** Trivial Pursuit (8359170) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (6658541) **10.05** Jerry Springer (1159763) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1764454) **11.55** Brookside (22496589) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor *(40275560)* ***12.50*** *Gabrielle (2866909)* **1.40** Rolonda (9426522) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2307218) **3.00** Live at Three (5349386) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2381270) **4.30** Talkabout (2555589) **5.05** Lingo (45734096) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2301034) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (2309947) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (8787819) **7.05** Brookside (4224367) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (4858812) ***8.00*** *General Practice (3110270)* ***9.00 FILM: Connections*** (68533552) **10.40** Entertainment Now! (2189831) **11.00-12.00** The Spicy Sex Files (1019096)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (1473) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (94928) **6.30** Catchphrase (8251) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (8909) **7.30** Hart to Hart (32763) **8.30** Duty Free (6154) **9.00** Bergerac (39473) **10.00** Stay Lucky (32560) **11.00** Rising Damp (13947) **11.30** Evening Shade (10034) **12.00** Lou Grant (78042) **1.00am** Bergerac (43042) **2.00** Hart to Hart (97936) **3.00** Lou Grant (15445) **4.00** All Together Now (62665) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (41597)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Cricket **8.00** Life Style East **9.00** Hit Thi Hit Hai **9.30** Your Zindegi **10.00** Bharat Ek Khoj **11.00** Shakti **11.30** Pakistan Business Update **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Nukkad **1.00 FILM: Prem Geet** **4.00** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Kya Scene Hai **6.00** Yoodle Ae Oo **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Cricket **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Jaal **9.30** Hasratain **10.00** Commander **10.30** Chehre **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.

9.00pm Grand Isle (1991) (41129473) **11.00 They Died, with Their Boots On (1941)** (12985541) **1.30 Children of the Damned (1964)** (92598503) **3.05-5.00 Grand Isle (1991)** (11698597)

BOXING 42

Bowe shapes up after mother of all reprimands

SPORT

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 1996

BRYANT'S EYE 46

Police take steps to run joggers off Britain's roads

Five-wicket haul seals Test place

Hostile Gough gets back into England groove

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (second day of four): Matabeleland, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 153 runs behind England

IT IS hard to get excited about a near full-strength England side having the better of a team that most county sides would expect to dismiss for well under 200 in the helpful conditions prevailing here, but the touring team had reason to be pleased with the way things went at the Athletic Club yesterday.

Darren Gough took five wickets and bowled perhaps as well as he has done for an England side since he made his name at Sydney two years ago, and it was all but resolved that Andrew Caddick will play in the first Test match next Wednesday in preference to Ronnie Irani.

Matabeleland finished on 181 for nine, four runs short of avoiding the follow-on, though England will want to avail themselves of the opportunity to bat again today before, presumably, completing a resounding victory tomorrow.

Gough has experienced frustration and disappointment aplenty after he was hyped to heaven on the back of one fine, all-round performance in a Test match in Australia. He has fractured a foot, often failed to do justice to his talent, and even when he did, found himself ignored by the selectors. Even after his performance yesterday, he did not have the confidence to take it for granted that he would play in the first Test, but he is now certain — if he was not already — to be sharing the new ball with Mullally.

"This is a big chance for me and I hope to take it," he said. "I want to play against the Australians next year, but it is not going to be easy over here. We can't underestimate Zimbabwe. They have played well against us so far and we are going to play on good pitches. We'll all have to earn our wickets."

It took him his eight-over opening spell, during which he dismissed Guy Whittall and Ranchod with successive balls, to loosen up, and it was then that the training that England have done paid dividends. He returned to take wickets in the opening overs of his second and third spells and got the ball to bounce and carry through to Stewart impressively. No sooner had he left the field than he ran a circuit of the boundary to "run down" and be ready to hunt a sixth wicket this morning.

On the evidence of this side, Matabeleland are woefully short of high-quality batsmen and few of those on view appeared to have the stomach for the fight. The first over, bowled by Gough, sent them a warning: Guy Whittall survived a strong appeal for leg-before to the first ball and the second hit him a painful blow in the abdomen.

Caddick responded by banging the ball in short to Rennie, who obliged by top-edging to Tufnell. Fortunately, Caddick soon learnt the need to pitch the ball up, something that escaped him in Harare. He had the left-handed Dekker caught in the slips seeking to cut the ball over gully, a stroke that served the home side well. It was a sure sign that the England seamers did not always bowl straight.

James took full advantage in making the top score of 62 and it required some astute bowling from Tufnell to remove him and Streak, who struck a bright 25. Both were deceived by extra flight into giving the left-arm spinner return catches.

Caddick has yet to convince anyone that he will be a match-winner in the Tests, but neither has Irani. His sorry tour continued as he again failed to look the part of an all-rounder. He made no impression with the ball, having earlier scored only five before driving loosely at Mbangwa.

Irani's future participation depends in part on the fragility of the tail, as witnessed yesterday by the loss of the last five wickets for 69. It makes it all the more important that the top six do not miss out. Thorpe's failures have been thus all the more worrying. He pushed half-heartedly at Streak in the third over of the day.

Test Match Special row .. 33
Photograph 46
Headley blow 46

ENGLAND XI: First Innings

N V Knight c G J Whittall b Rennie	114
*M A Atherton b Olonga	4
†A J Stewart c G J Whittall b Streak	39
N Hussain c James b Olonga	38
G P Thorpe c James b Streak	15
J P Crawley c James b Streak	63
R C Irani c Olonga b Mbangwa	5
R D B Croft c G J Whittall b Rennie	8
D Gough lbw b G J Whittall	6
A R Caddick not out	10
P C R Tufnell c James b G J Whittall	10
Extras (b 5, lb 5, w 4, nb 8)	22
Total	334

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-100, 3-185, 4-215, 5-240, 6-261, 7-274, 8-312, 9-312.

BOWLING: Olonga 14-3-63-2; Streak 19-3-65-3; G J Whittall 14-4-40-2; Mbangwa 19-3-60-1; Rennie 17-4-62-2; Vaghmaria 3-0-9-0; A R Whittall 6-1-25-0

MATABELELAND: First Innings

G J Whittall c Irani b Gough	19
*J A Rennie c Tufnell b Caddick	0
M H Dekker c Knight b Caddick	26
M Ranchod c Stewart b Gough	0
†W R James c and b Tufnell	62
M D Abrams c Stewart b Gough	15
H H Streak c and b Tufnell	25
D Vaghmaria b Gough	12
A R Whittall b Gough	7
H K Olonga not out	5
M Mbangwa not out	3
Extras (lb 2, nb 5)	7
Total (9 wkts)	181

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-32, 3-32, 4-62, 5-104, 6-142, 7-154, 8-172, 9-173

BOWLING: Gough 16-1-62-5; Caddick 12-1-38-2; Irani 7-3-26-0; Tufnell 18-5-35-2; Croft 9-3-18-0

Umpires: R Tiffin and J Coventry

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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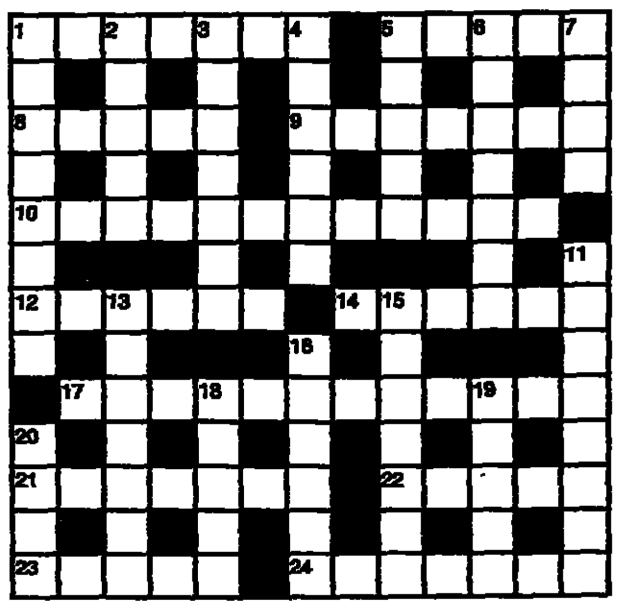

ACROSS
- 1 Wretched (7)
- 5 Light beer; mil. camp (5)
- 8 Dog-lead (5)
- 9 Jim —, *Treasure Island* narrator (7)
- 10 Diversified corporation (12)
- 12 Aureole; daffodil trumpet (6)
- 14 Shirt arm (6)
- 17 Beethoven Op. 57 sonata (12)
- 21 Foot-operated lever (7)
- 22 High window; Oxford college (5)
- 23 Push against; the papers (5)
- 24 Lockjaw (7)

DOWN
- 1 Gun safety position; unready, at this (4-4)
- 2 Flat land; unadorned (5)
- 3 Offset mil. formation (7)
- 4 Plot, project (6)
- 5 Further down (5)
- 6 Meat cartilage (7)
- 7 Take a chance (with) (4)
- 11 Fails to meet (obligation) (8)
- 13 Full to bursting (7)
- 15 Sentry (7)
- 16 Act of climbing (6)
- 18 S American mountains (5)
- 19 Of birds (5)
- 20 Halt (4)

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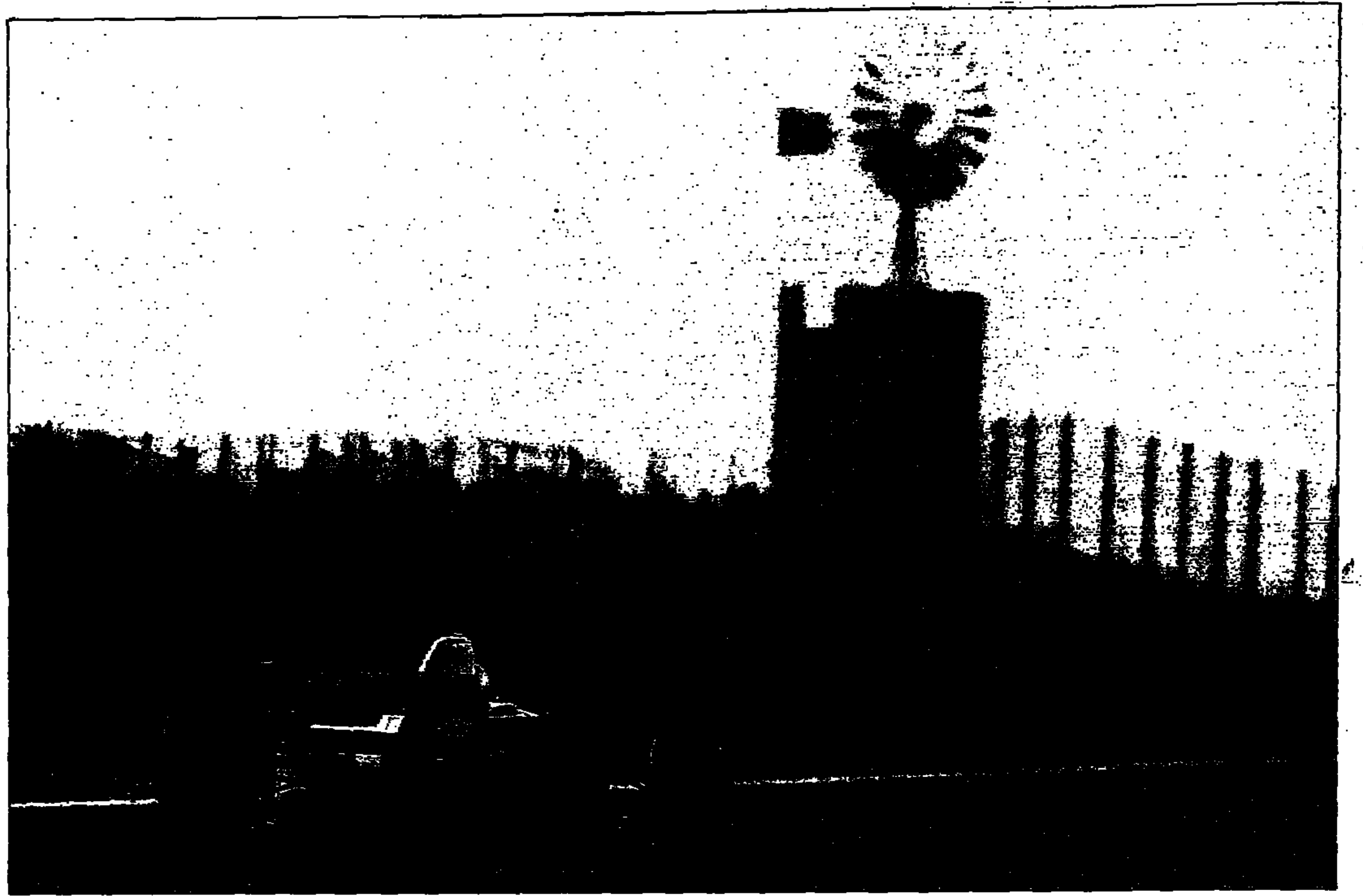
Name/Address ....

SOLUTION TO NO 962

ACROSS: 7 Bail 8 Laughter 9 Kindness 10 Link 11 Walrus 13 Iceman 15 Nephew 17 Gabble 19 Slur 21 Orbiting 23 Well-read 24 Exit

DOWN: 1 Marinade 2 Glider 3 Blue 4 Quisling 5 Childe 6 Mean 12 Sawbones 14 Atlantis 16 Harold 18 Butler 20 Leek 22 Bide



The Barcelona sun rises on Mansell's possible return to Formula One as he takes to the road again yesterday. Photograph: Mike Cooper/Allsport

Mansell moves closer to final fling

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN BARCELONA

HE CLIMBED from the cockpit dressed in a suit of gold and wandered, smiling, towards the shadows at the rear of the Jordan garage. He put his hands against the cheek of one of his engineers to indicate how fierce the wind chill was out on the track. Still he smiled. Yesterday, here at the Circuit de Catalunya, Nigel Mansell came in from the cold.

Eighteen months ago, at this circuit in the hills above the city, Mansell limped out of his last grand prix, hobbled by an uncompetitive McLaren-Mercedes, dogged by others' doubts about his motivation and surrounded by uncertainty about whether he would return to Formula One. It seemed like an ignominious end to a great career that contained 31 grand prix victories.

Yesterday, though, the mood could not have been more different when he slid back behind the wheel for the first time since. This was the confident, swashbuckling Mansell of old, hurtling his way round the circuit, trailing hordes of journalists and photographers in his wake. By the end of the day, there were growing signs that the driver who won the world championship with Williams in 1992 and the IndyCar championship the year after, considers Jordan a viable vehicle for a last fling next season.

Despite initial scepticism about his reasons for taking part in the two-day test here, the desire to make a comeback to the sport he graced for so long still burns intensely. Mansell talked in terms of his time in the motor racing wilderness, time spent lowering his golf handicap from five to one, as being a "no man's land". "Racing has been in my blood for 20 years," he said. "You do not forget."

Mansell stunned the Irish team on his first run yesterday by driving close to the time set by his prospective teammate, Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of Michael, a grand prix novice but one who has had the benefit of more than 3,000km of testing in the last few weeks.

He chipped away at Schumacher's time for the rest of the day and, by the late afternoon, when he had completed 49 laps of the three-mile circuit, he had brought himself within three tenths of a second of the young German's mark.

> 'There were growing signs that he considers Jordan a viable vehicle'

He was the slowest of the nine drivers testing here yesterday but, after such a long absence, that seemed irrelevant. "If you have never lost it," Mansell said at a press conference, "then you do not have much to regain."

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, tried to play down the significance of yesterday's events but it is clear that he and his title sponsors, Benson and Hedges, are keen to secure Mansell's signature, especially after losing out to TWR Arrows in the race for Damon Hill, the world champion, at the end of last season.

Even Jordan, though, admitted that his would be "a willing pair of ears" when he and Mansell begin to discuss the terms of a deal, probably some time next week. There is a feeling spreading within the team that, even at 43, Mansell could be the catalyst to take them the final step towards the elusive goal of the team's first win.

"It is a great honour to have Nigel in the car here," Jordan said. "The first three laps made such an impact. It showed he has still got the commitment and the belief. That is one of his biggest assets — total and absolute commitment, and belief in his own talents. A few of the young drivers out there today could learn some things from that."

There is little doubt, too, that the prospect of spearheading the popular Irish team's chase for glory is growing increasingly appealing to Mansell. He remained circumspect about the prospects of lining up for the Australian Grand Prix in March, the opening race of the season, but there were hints in his words that he may decide to give it a go.

"Next year, if all the potential they have comes to fruition, they could be competing with the top three teams," Mansell said. "I think there is a 60-40 chance I will be driving in Formula One next season. I would like to, but we will see. There are so many things that have to be sorted out. It needs all parties to come together for the right reasons and we will probably explore that in the not too distant future."

An enthusiastic Mansell discusses the fine points of his first day's testing with Jordan technicians

Keegan draws shorter straw as Liverpool savour Brann

BY PETER BALL

LIVERPOOL are getting to know Scandinavia quite well. After matches in Denmark last season and Finland this, they will play their first European match of 1997 in Norway.

The draw yesterday for the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-finals, to be played in March, paired them with SK Brann Bergen. In the Uefa Cup, Newcastle United face what should be a warmer trip in every sense, against AS Monaco. It is their second successive game against French opposition.

Newcastle at least avoided Internazionale, the favourites, who meet Anderlecht, but that was the extent of their good fortune. Unlike Liverpool, they are at home in the first leg.

"Monaco are one of the top two clubs in France, and this is as tough as they come," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "They have good experience in Europe, some great players, and they beat Hamburg quite convincingly.

"We'll need to play better than at home to Metz and we know we can do that. If we play the way we are capable of, then we can go all the way."

Monaco are the French league leaders. As well as SV Hamburg — who had previously beaten Celtic — they have eliminated Borussia Mönchengladbach, conquerors of Arsenal. With Victor Ikpeba and the Brazilian, Sonny Anderson, they are as dangerous in front of goal as Newcastle themselves.

"I think everyone would have wanted to avoid the favourites, so we're quite pleased," Peter Beardsley, the Newcastle forward, said. "It's a magnificent stadium there, and I am sure our fans will enjoy the trip."

The Cup Winners' Cup is often thought to be the weakest of the three European competitions, but the draw paved the way for a semi-final quartet to match any, keeping Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain — the holders — and Liverpool apart. That left Benfica against Fiorentina as the best-balanced tie, but after their defeat by Brondby in the Uefa Cup last season, Liverpool have reason to be wary.

"At least we've avoided the bigger teams, but there's been a big improvement in Scandinavian football over the past few years and we always find them to be organised, strong, fit and difficult to beat," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said.

SK Brann, who beat PSV Eindhoven in the last round, are certainly that, while Rosenborg's stunning victory over AC Milan in the European Cup Champions' League last week shows how far Norwegian football has come.

QUARTER-FINALS

European Cup Winners' Cup

SK Brann Bergen v Liverpool
Barcelona v AIK Stockholm
Paris Saint-Germain v AEK Athens
Benfica v Fiorentina
First leg March 6, second leg March 20

Uefa Cup

Schalke 04 v Valencia
Tenerife v Brondby
Newcastle United v AS Monaco
Anderlecht v Internazionale
First leg March 4, second leg March 18

European Cup

Borussia Dortmund v Auxerre
Ajax v Atlético Madrid
Rosenborg v Juventus
Manchester United v FC Porto
First leg March 5, second leg March 19

Mediocrity rules, page 44
Eriksson rumours, page 44

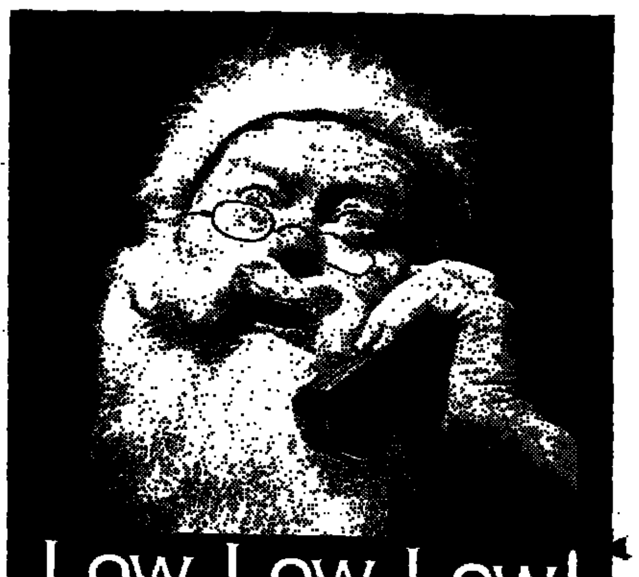
Gritt wins race for hottest seat

STEVE GRITT yesterday accepted what many consider to be the worst job in professional football — the managership of Brighton (Russell Kempson writes). Gritt replaces Jimmy Case, dismissed last week, at a club that lies 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Nationwide League third division and is also bedevilled by financial problems, persistent crowd unrest and uncertainty about a ground for next season.

Gritt, 39, spent four years as joint-manager of Charlton Athletic, with Alan Curbishley, before leaving by mutual consent 18 months ago. "My message to the Brighton fans is to get behind the team," he said. "Success for me would be for us to finish 23rd in the league, just making sure we get off the bottom."

The shortlist of three was completed by Dave Merrington, the former Southampton manager, and Glenn Roeder, who left Watford last season.

Brighton have appealed against the two-point penalty imposed on them by the Football Association after crowd trouble in the home game against Lincoln City.



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